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[Article by Choe Chok-ho, deputy head of News No. 2 Department, NAEWOE News Agency: "Those Who Help 'Kim Chong-il's North Korea Function'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A change in the North Korean power hierarchy is carefully anticipated with the launch of the Kim Chong-il system. The general prospects at present are that the revolution's first generation will retreat and the new force of technocrats will emerge. The following are 70 personages of the power elite who are expected to play a leading role in various fields of North Korea, including political, economic, social, and cultural fields, in the Kim Chong-il era.

The three conditions of the North Korean elite

To succeed in life in North Korea, one has to meet three conditions, namely, have a good family background, graduate from a leading university such as Kim Il-song University, and serve as a primary level cadre in a key department of the party or the military.

Good family background means that one is from the family lineage that served in the anti-Japanese guerrilla activities with Kim Il-song. Even now when Kim Il-song is dead, positioned in the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, the center of the North Korean power, is the so-called revolution's first generation, such as O Chin-u, Choe Kwang, Pak Song-chol, and Kim Chol-man. Yi Ul-sol, Paek Hak-nim, and Kim Kwang-chin, who are in the military, also belong to this generation. These men will probably retreat from the front in the Kim Chong-il era, but they still have the aforementioned condition for becoming members of the elite because they have never been alienated from key power posts since national liberation, though there has been some individual rise and fall.

Besides the revolution's first generation, the offspring of the guerrillas, which is called the revolution's second generation, has all been given important positions, for example, Kim Kuk-tae, Kim Chaek's son; Choe Yong-hae, Choe Hyon's son; Kim Hwan, Kim Hyok's son; and O Kuk-yol, relative of O Chung-hwa and O Chung-hup. Those who belong to Kim Il-song's family lineage or have Kim Il-song's personal relations also belong to this privileged group. Most of these men graduated from Mangyongdae Revolution's School, which is a school attended only by the so-called revolution's bereaved children.

The conditions in education and experience

Many of the members of the North Korean elite graduated from Kim Il-song University. One-third of the incumbent cadres of the State Administration Council graduated from Kim Il-song University. We see the same phenomenon in the social, cultural, and art fields. Those who graduated from Kim Chaek Engineering College, Pyongyang Natural Science College (in Pyongsong, South Pyongan Province), and Foreign Language College began to succeed in life recently, because the demand for the elites is increasing. As for technocrats, most of them studied in the former Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany.

As for their career experience, most of the party and government cadres began their career as party officials in the organizational guidance department or propaganda and agitation department of the WPK, because organization and agitation are the two main axes for maintaining the North Korean system, as is the case in all socialist systems. We see this from the fact that even the experts who have nothing to do with organization and guidance—such as party Secretary Chon Pyong-ho, who commands the North Korean defense industry; Choe Yong-nim, vice premier and minister of Metal Industry; and Kim Kuk-tae, WPK secretary in charge of ideological affairs—served in the organization and guidance department for a considerable period of time as primary cadres.

In the case of the military, those from the General Guard Bureau and Political Bureau rose to higher positions more rapidly than those from the field Army, because, by the nature of the socialist system, the Political Bureau members who choose the party's policies and supervises their implementation under the command of the party hold the real power. General Yi Pong-won, deputy head of the General Political Bureau, is a typical example of this.

Retraining institutions operated by the WPK is a must for North Korean elites. As the number of party members has increased with the recent influx of the post-war generation, including the members of the three revolutions teams, retraining has been intensified for effective personnel management, including ideological rearmament and qualification improvement. Retraining is organized by the cadre training section under the organization and guidance department of the party Central Committee. The retraining period is three to four years.

Retraining institutions include Kim Il-song Higher Party School (Propaganda and Agitation Department); University of International Affairs (International Department); University of National Economy (economic department); Kumsong Political University (Youth and Three Revolutions Teams Department); and Kang Pan-sok Political University (Youth and Three Revolutions Teams Department).

Some changes are expected in the North Korean power structure in the Kim Chong-il era. Kim Il-song gave important posts to anti-Japanese guerrillas for their revolutionary spirit, but analyses show that Kim Chong-il will prefer alumni, relatives, and technocrats in selecting power elites. The following is an introduction to 70 power elites of the Kim Chong-il era.

Kang Sok-chu, first vice foreign minister of the Administration Council; first-line commander in Western diplomacy

He is a member of the WPK Central Committee, first vice foreign minister of the Foreign Ministry of the Administration Council, and vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA].

If the decision is made to appoint an ambassadorial-level official to the post of the chief of the North Korean liaison office in Washington, he is considered to be the likeliest candidate for the position, in view of the fact that improving North Korean-U.S. relations will become a key to reviving the political, economic, and diplomatic capabilities of the Kim Chong-il system. His appointment would be an unprecedented event in diplomatic traditions.

He delivered a speech accepting simultaneous admission into the United Nations by North and South Korea in September 1991. He has attended the UN General Assembly every year and has acquainted himself with Western diplomats since 1986. He has a very good command of English, polished manners, and a composed disposition. Therefore, he has been considered to be one who most resembles a diplomat, which is unusual among North Koreans. True to his reputation as an "expert negotiator," he concluded the North Korean-U.S. talks, which had continued tediously for one year and three months, to North Korea's advantage and, thus, consolidated the future path of the Kim Chong-il system.

He has worked under Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister, who leads North Korean diplomacy, for almost 20 years. His connection with Kim Yong-nam began when he started working at the WPK International Department in the early 1970's. At that time, Kim Yong-nam was serving as director of the International Department. Kang Sok-chu was appointed as vice foreign minister in 1994, a few months after Kim Yong-nam had been appointed foreign minister. He became first vice foreign minister, his current post, in April 1987 and has since served as a field officer who commands North Korea's Western diplomacy.

He became candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in 1988, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA, and member of the party Central Committee in December 1991. In this way, he has been promoted very rapidly, which would have been impossible without Kim Chong-il's trust. Along with Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the WPK, he is considered to be a candidate who will succeed Kim Yong-nam as leader of North Korean diplomacy.

Kang Song-san, premier of the Administration Council; "the premier with real power," who is third in North Korea's power hierarchy.

He is a member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and the premier of the Administration Council. He is third in line in North Korea's hierarchy, after O Chin-u, minister of the People's Armed Forces.

He was born in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, in 1931, and graduated from Mangyongdae Revolution School and studied at Czech Prague Engineering University. He is very well-informed in economics. Starting his career as the responsible secretary of the Chagang Provincial Party Committee in 1969, he then served as a party and administrative functionary in Pyongyang and local areas for five to six years. In 1975, he was selected for the post of the chairman of the then Committee of Post and Telecommunications. Previously, in October 1973, he rose to a level of power by his election as a candidate member of the WPK Politburo.

He served as vice premier of the Administration Council in 1977; as minister of railways in 1979; and as first vice premier of the Administration Council in 1982. In January 1984, he was elected as premier when Premier Yi Chong-ok was promoted to the vice presidency. In this way, he has smoothly risen to a high position. Also, he was designated as "premier with real power" when he was appointed as a member of the WPK Politburo, the heart of North Korea's power hierarchy, at the plenary meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee in 1980 before rising to the post of the first premier.

His appointment to the premiership was aimed at laying a foundation for a new economic planning draft as the result of the failure of the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984). As if to satisfy such an expectation, he adopted a joint-venture law in 1984, copying China's Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Law. He then moved to the post of WPK secretary upon completing the preparatory work on the Third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993), handing over the premiership to Yi Kun- mo in December 1986.

In March 1988, as the first official who had held the premiership, he was appointed as the responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee and the chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee. It was perceived as a highly unprecedented incident for a person who had served as premier to be appointed the chief secretary of a local area. This appointment, however, was shown in December 1991 not to be a relegation when North Korea announced the establishment of the Najin-Sonbong Free Economic Zone. In other words, he was appointed as the responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee so he could vigorously push ahead with opening up North Korea.

One year later, he was again appointed to the premiership of the Administration Council, following Yon Hyong-muk. Even though the Third Seven-Year Plan, which focused on opening up North Korea, ended in failure; and Kim Tal-hyon, then chairman of the State Planning Committee, was fired, he maintained his post.

Particularly, when his son-in-law defected to South Korea in 1994, he was expected to become a target of liquidation in the power reorganization following the death of Kim Il-song. However, he kept his post and once again demonstrated that he is "the premier with real power." Thus, he rose as the most talented figure in the Kim Chong-il era.

He has average height and a well-set frame, and has a strong will and is tenacious. Once there was a rumor that he is a relative of Kim Il-song, however, it was turned out to be false. It seems that a rumor that he has no children due to a sexual function problem is true.

Kye Ung-tae, party secretary for public security affairs, chief responsible official for surveillance in the "controlled country"

North Korea has more intelligence and surveillance agencies than any other country in the world because it would be impossible to maintain its political system—from Kim Il-song down to Kim Chong- il—without relying on thorough control. In other words, the intelligence and surveillance agencies are serving as the sources for the maintenance of the North Korean system.

Roughly speaking, there are more than 10 North Korean intelligence and surveillance agencies. Representative agencies are the State Security and Defense Department [SSDD; kuka anjon powibu], the Ministry of Public Security, the General Political Bureau of the Army, the Central Procurator's Office; and party organizations, such as the Administrative Department, the Department of Research on the South, and the Department of Operations in the South [party department names as published].

All the agencies, such as the SSDD, are controlled by the party Organization Department, which is under the direct supervision of Kim Chong-il. As Kim Chong-il's proxy, Kye Ung-tae supervises these agencies. Accordingly, as the man who is closest to Kim Chong-il, Kye Ung-tae exercises his formidable power, in particular, in the public security, judiciary, and administrative fields. Although he has no right to manage SSDD chiefs and the Ministry of Public Security, Kye Ung-tae can have a say, to some extent, in appointing the procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office, who has less influence than SSDD chiefs and the Ministry of Public Security.

Kye Ung-tae's basic duties are to give "party-level guidance" to relevant officials after reviewing various reports filed from each intelligence and surveillance agency; to consult with Kim Chong-il over important matters and receive relevant directives from Kim.

For example, during the South-North high-level talks held in Pyongyang, most of the entourage members and guides of the North delegation were from the SSDD, Ministry of Public Security, or the Liaison Department for South-related affairs. They were involved in allocating lodging quarters to our delegation members; and reported to their party headquarters information gathered on the private talks between entourage members and reporters, the activities of the delegations, and the targets of their surveillance.

In general, after scrupulously reviewing these reports, Kye Ung-tae provides his own version to Kim Chong-il; and gives directives to the lower echelons to correct errors. Based on these directives, the Ministry of Public Security issues an ordinance, which will complete the relevant preparatory process. Kye Ung-tae's official title is party secretary for public security affairs; at the same time, he controls such agencies and consolidates the Kim Chong-il system in his capacity of the chairman of the Legislation Committee of the SPA.

When assuming the chairmanship of the Legislation Committee (then, the Law Bills Deliberation Committee) in December 1986, Kye helped Pang Hak-se, then president of the Central Court; and Han Sang-kyu, then procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office, to become members of the Legislation Committee. He also helped Paek Hak-nim, minister of public security, to become a member of the committee, thereby wielding his command over various agencies.

Outwardly, Kye Ung-tae does not appear to have experience in the public security and judiciary fields. He has served only in the following positions: vice director of the party International Department (May 1957); vice foreign minister (February 1960); vice trade minister (March 1962); and trade minister (January 1972). His career reveals a great deal of experience in foreign and trade affairs. Notwithstanding such experience, he is the man in charge of intelligence and surveillance affairs, which can only be handled by a man close to Kim Chong-il. This is because he has an outstanding ability to gather and analyze overseas information. Needless to say, he has acquired such capabilities while working in the field of foreign and trade affairs. In actuality, it has been learned that Kye has helped Kim Chong-il a great deal by providing him with high-level information from abroad, which he has obtained from the SSDD official who was in charge of gathering overseas information.

It is said that Kye Ung-tae is gaining a relatively good reputation from his subordinate officials as "a good-natured old man."

Considering Kye's age, it is judged that it will be difficult for him to play an important role in the Kim Chong-il era. It is expected, however, that Kye will exercise his influence in the center of North Korea's power hierarchy until his death because Kim Chong-il highly values Kye's competence and loyalty.

Ko Hak-su, research director of the Pyongyang Central Botanical Garden; "national treasure" of North Korea's botanical sector

North Korea's botanical sector regards "The Flora of Pyongyang's Botany" as a national treasure. Ko Hak-su is the author of this book.

He is affiliated with the pro-Pyongyang federation of Korean residents in Japan and is currently serving as the research director of the Pyongyang Central Botanical Garden. He is admired as the person of highest authority in North Korea's botanical sector.

He received educational assistance from North Korea and graduated from middle and high school in Japan. He then went to North Korea. According to a magazine in North Korea, he decided to return to North Korea after he heard that Kim Il-song made 'an important remark' at his brother's house in Pyongyang, who had previously moved to North Korea.

He majored in gardening at a local agricultural university in North Korea and became a gardener. He started to write "The Flora of Pyongyang's Botany" after he started work at the Pyongyang Botanical Garden. It took him 10 years to complete it, to which he has remarked: "Out of the sheer desire to make a flora that will remain generation after generation, I gathered plants from the plains, mountains, and fields in the suburbs, as well as in Pyongyang, made samples, and concentrated on completing this book."

He also joined in the compilation work "The Flora of Korea," thus surveying all the regions of North Korea for almost 20 years. It is being conveyed that in this process he collected tens of thousands of botanical specimen. North Korea's botanical sector views him as a 'very enthusiastic scholar.' As an example, the following is an frequent anecdote told about him: "During the rainy season of a certain year, so as not to miss the opportunity, he went to see a plant bloom by walking tens of ri around a flooding river."

Kim Kwang-suk, a popular singer; lead singer of the Pochonbo Light Music Troupe

As the most popular singer in North Korea, Kim Kwang-suk is attached to the Pochonbo Light Music Troupe, which was directly founded by Kim Chong-il in 1985. She is 27, attractive, and has a beautiful voice. She is expressive and has refined stage manners.

Her major hit songs include "The General's Star," "How Handsome He Is," and "Girl From Urban Area Marries." She became known to the outside world after the Pochonbo Light Music Troupe's performance in Japan in 1991. Kim Kwang-suk got a big round of applause from Japanese audiences by singing Japanese songs, as well as North Korean songs, in a medley.

Besides Kim Kwang-suk, there are four other women singers, including Chon Hye-yong, Yi Kyong-suk, Yi Pun-hui, and Cho Kum-hwa, in the Pochonbo Light Music Troupe. Kim Kwang-suk, who is the oldest, is the lead singer of the troupe. Among the women singers, Chon Hye-yong, singer of "Whistle," is known mostly in the ROK. In North Korea, however, Kim Kwang-suk's popularity exceeds that of Chon Hye-yong.

With Chon Hye-yong, she received the title of meritorious actress in 1991. The favorite gossip among North Korean residents, especially teenagers, is whom she will marry.

The Pochonbo Light Music Troupe was named after Pochonbo, Kim Il-song's famous revolutionary battle site, and is North Korea's first modern pop ensemble, which is made up of singers and composers who have received the highest music education and have excellent talent. The troupe of 15 artists, including Choe Sang-kun, head of the troupe, and composer Yi Chong-o, received the "Kim Il-song prize" in May 1991.

Kim Kwang-suk, gymnast; famous for the "Kwang-suk turn"

She is a world-renowned gymnast and shares the same name with singer Kim Kwang-suk. She is famous for the "Kwang-suk turn," which is difficult to copy and is so beloved by Kim Chong-il that she sat on his lap during a party.

She is 19 and was 147 cm tall and weighed 31 kg four years ago when she was a star of the gymnastics world.

Kim Kwang-suk drew the world's attention when she participated in the World Gymnastics Games held in West Germany in 1989. She displayed a creative turning technique on the high-altitude parallel bars, surprising gymnastic experts. This technique is called the "Kwang-suk turn." She won first prize in the 1990 International Gymnastics Games held in the former Soviet Union and received a perfect score at the World Competition Games held in Minneapolis, the United States, thus being called the new darling of women's gymnastics.

She received the title of People's Athlete, which is the greatest honor for North Korean athletes, and received a luxurious apartment in Pyongyang and a Nissan car as gifts.

Kim Kwang-suk started her career when she was six. She suffered the insult, however, of returning home from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics without a medal.

Kim Kwang-chin, vice minister of the People's Armed Forces; the youngest in the group of elder military leaders

He is a member of the WPK Central Committee, a member of the North Korean National Defense Committee, vice minister of the People's Armed Forces, and a vice marshal of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

At Kim Il-song's memorial service (20 July 1994), he pledged loyalty to Kim Chong-il on behalf of the military. Born in Pyongyang in 1918, he graduated from the Soviet Army's Artillery Engineering School and participated in the Korean war. In September 1990, he came to Seoul as a delegate of the North side to the first South-North high-level talks. In a meeting with reporters in

Seoul, he said in retrospect: "Leading a unit of the People's Army during the Korean war, I went down to Taegu."

He became Artillery Command chief of staff in 1958; deputy commanding officer of this Command in 1963; and commanding officer of this Command in 1969 and served in that post for almost ten years until 1978. His rank at that time was major general. With the rank of lieutenant general in 1980, he was promoted to the post of deputy chief of general staff of the People's Army; and he was also elected as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee. In 1984, he was appointed commanding officer of the 5th People's Army Corps and was also elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee. He was appointed vice minister of the People's Armed Forces in 1985. The same year, he was promoted to full general (when he was promoted to colonel general has not been confirmed).

Visiting the PRC and the Soviet Union several times in the 1970's and 1980's as the head of military delegations, he had the opportunity to cultivate his outstanding capability in conducting military diplomacy. He also participated in the South-North high-level talks that began in September 1990 as the deputy chief delegate. In April 1992, when Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u were elected marshals, he was promoted to vice marshal along with Choe Kwang, Paek Hak-nim, Yi Ul-sol, Chu To-il, Choe In-tok, Yi Tu-ik, and Kim Pong-yul.

Compared with O Chin-u, minister of the People's Armed Forces, and Choe Kwang, chief of general staff of the Army, he belongs to the younger group of the elder military leaders. For his age, he is hale and hearty. Considering his military career, he has a gentle image. He has attended, as a military officer, every official event that has been held following Kim Il-song's death. It is expected, therefore, that he will remain active in the Kim Chong-il era.

Kim Kuk-tae, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the Kim Il-song Higher Party School; the center of the party's ideology and theory

Kim Kuk-tae is a secretary of the WPK Central Committee and the president of the Kim Il-song Higher Party School.

He was born in Songjin (former Kimchaek), North Hamgyong Province, in 1924 as the eldest son of Kim Chaek (who died during the Korean war) and was the first graduate of Manyongdae Revolutionary School. After studying at Kim Il-song University, he went to the former Soviet Union to study politics at the Soviet Union Military University, from which he graduated as the top student. In 1947, he started his career as a cadre of the regional party committee.

In 1956, he was appointed as vice section chief of the WPK Central Committee. He played an important role in establishing Kim Il-song's unitary idea while serving as vice general director [title as published] of the General Political Bureau of the KPA and director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Public Security from 1963 to 1968.

While serving as director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the WPK and minister of culture and art, he directed and supervised WPK propaganda of political ideas and indoctrination, and reorganized the Party History Institute into the Kim Il-song Revolutionary History Institute. Thus, he brought a breath of fresh air to the establishment of the system of the unitary idea, receiving deep trust from Kim Il-song.

In June 1976, he was appointed president of the Kim Il-song Higher Party School and, in 1977, he became the chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee. In the same year, he was appointed ambassador to Ethiopia and served in that post for three years. In 1970, he became a member of the WPK Central Committee at the plenary meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee. He was elected director of the education department of the WPK; director of the cadre training department of the WPK in 1984; and secretary in charge of ideology at the 20th plenary meeting of the Sixth WPK Central Committee in 1992.

He does not like to standout and has a clear head with a wild character. As one of the thinkers and theoreticians, he is directly involved in the drafting of reports or decisions of party meetings and the party's major documents. In recent days, he has accompanied Kim Chong-il to his official visits and is involved in managing the party's organizations. He is a ideological partner of Kim Chong-il. He is expected to compete with Chang Song-taek for the post of secretary for organizational affairs.

In 1982 he received the Kim Il-song prize for his contribution to the establishment of Kim Il-song's unitary system.

Kim Ki-nam, director of the party's Propaganda and Agitation Department [PAD], a genius of propaganda and agitation

North Korea is "a country of slogans." Once a certain policy is made, a slogan will be created and will be known to its people under all circumstances. Such representative slogans, which have been published recently, are "Let us live in our own way!" and "What the party decides, we will do!"

Such slogans were put forth in the latter half of the eighties when socialism in the former Soviet Union and East Europe collapsed, and thus the foundation of North Korea was shaking. These slogans are still in wide use. In a word, these slogans are typical of the "politics of agitation," whose role is played by the party's PAD.

The PAD, which is similar to our Ministry of Information, is a department engaged in publicizing policies; but this department, along with the Organization and Guidance Department, is at the top of the power hierarchy in

North Korea. This is because this department is regarding, as its supreme policy goal, the work of disseminating the chuche idea on the basis of the communist theory which looks upon propaganda and agitation as a key factor in political activities.

Kim Ki-nam is totally responsible for the propaganda and agitation work to which North Korea attaches the greatest importance. Considering his official duties, he is regarded as one of those closest to Kim Chong-il.

Since April 1989, Kim Ki-nam has been in charge of the PAD of the party. He assumed the post because he had been evaluated as the best writer in the party and also because he was a drinking pal of Kim Chong-il.

The immediate reason why he became in favor of Kim Chong-il was that he had taken direct charge of writing the "works," which had been published in the name of Kim Chong-il, and he had ghost written Kim Chong-il's congratulatory messages or new year's greetings. And, he had been also highly estimated because, officially, he had been a standard bearer in carrying out the propaganda in praise of Kim Chong-il with a view to laying a foundation of Kim's succession system, while mobilizing all North Korean propaganda media.

In particular, with regard to the question of Kim Song-ae, Kim Chong-il's stepmother and his political rival, Kim Ki-nam was taking the toughest stance against her, thereby winning Kim Chong-il's trust. For example, he banned Kim Song-ae's photographs from being published on the NODONG SINMUN and the like, or helped give as little attention as possible to the articles on Kim Song-ae or prohibited such articles from papers.

In addition, Kim Ki-nam is also in charge of selecting writers who are working at state agencies or those who are regarded to be of utility value, and of instigating them to stand in the lead of the Kim Chong-il succession system. One typical example is that he has made Yi In-mo, who was repatriated to the North in March last year, compose poems praising Kim Chong-il. The poems praising Kim Chong-il, which have been published in the name of Yi In-mo, are "A thought about love" and "Only with you, we will win."

Kim Ki-nam was born in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, in August 1926. He finished the courses at Kim Il-song University and at the former Soviet Union's Higher Party School. He became known to the public when he began working as the deputy editor in chief of "KULLOJA," a party theoretical organ, in April 1972. Afterwards, he worked as the responsible editor in chief of "KULLOJA" and the "NODONG SINMUN," and was appointed vice director of the party's PAD in October 1985.

Since around this time, he has consolidated his position as the man closest to Kim Chong-il and has displayed his genius in the propaganda and agitation field. He has created most of the famous slogans such as "Let us live in our own way!" "Study, life—all in the manner of the anti-Japanese guerrillas!"

In April 1989, he was promoted to the director of the party's PAD; and in December 1992, he was appointed as a secretary of the party.

It is predicted that there will be a rocky going ahead for North Korea's Kim Chong-il system, in particular, because of its economic difficulty and diplomatic isolation. Accordingly, it is expected that one campaign after another of various kinds aimed at firmly consolidating its successor system will be carried out. In this case, it seems that the role of Kim Ki-nam, "a manufacturer of slogans," will necessarily be enhanced further.

Kim Tal-hyon, former vice premier of the Administration Council; representative expert on external economy

Member of the Workers Party Central Committee, former vice premier and chairman of the State Planning Committee.

Serving as vice premier and chairman of the State Planning Committee from the later part of the 1980's to December 1993, he had control of the North Korean economy, and became known as a representative expert on the external economy. He will most likely be reappointed to a very important position under a Kim Chong-il system pursuing a line of economic opening.

Details of his academic career and background of growth are not known. However, he began to receive recognition of his ability when he assumed the position of deputy director of the Academy of Science in 1977. Since then, he has made frequent visits to Poland, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and other East European countries until the early part of the 1980's, and made on-the-spot study of science and technology in East Europe which North Korea assumed as a model for its economy. In 1984, he accompanied Premier Kang Song-san to China.

Succeeding Kim Hwan to the post of chairman of Chemical and Light Industry Committee in the Administration Council in March 1987, he replaced Vice Premier Hong Song-nam as chairman of the State Planning Committee in February 1988. However, he was again replaced by Hong in four months, and transferred to the position of chairman of the External Economy Commission. In October, he held the additional post of trade minister. Thus, he was put in charge of the work to use "external economic cooperation" to resuscitate the North Korean economy, which fell into an overall crisis. In 1989, he led an economic delegation to the Soviet Union, Switzerland, and the like, thus showing his expertise regarding external economy.

He turned over the chairmanship of the State Planning Committee to Choe Yong-nim in May 1990. He then came back to this post in December 1992 when Kang Song-san was reappointed premier. He then became devoted only to economic planning after he was handed the chairmanship of External Economy Commission, and held it for nearly four years until he turned it over to Yi Song-tae, his close associate. At the time, he was promoted to become a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party. Thus, his political position was markedly enhanced.

In particular, he personally invited Mun Son-myong, the founder of Unification Church, to visit Pyongyang in 1991. He held talks with Mun in succession following talks between Mun and Yun Ki-pok, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF]. He also attended the meeting between Kim Il-song and Mun Son-myong, and presented his view on the issue of economic assistance, which is an indication of the important role he was playing in North Korea at the time. He visited Seoul in 1992 to discuss the issue of economic cooperation between North and South Korea, and toured and inspected our industrial facilities. He was known to be well versed in working-level business and a rather gentle figure.

However, with the "failure" of North Korea's third 7-year plan" in 1993, he was relieved of all official positions as a "sacrifice." Since then, he has not shown up at any official event. It was learned that he was sent to a local enterprise and is now working as responsible figure of the enterprise. There is a great possibility that he will be reappointed when external opening is pushed for in North Korea.

State Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, promoted to vice president from status of member of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon]

Vice president of the state and chairman of the Social Democratic Party. Born in Sinan, South Cholla Province, in 1919, he went to Japan before national liberation, and graduated from the Department of Economic Studies in Tohuku College. After liberation, he taught at the Korean middle school for a while. In 1952, he served as member of central headquarters of the Democratic Front. He became chief editor of the Korea News Agency, a subordinate organization of the Democratic Front in 1953. In 1955, he joined in founding Chongnyon. His position at the time was Chongnyon's Central Standing Committee member.

Starting in the position of director of personnel administration department of Chongnyon Central Committee, he held the post of director of organizational committee in the same year, and director of administration in 1963. He was promoted to vice chairman of the Chongnyon Central Committee in 1966 and later to first vice chairman in 1970. Since he became director of the organizational committee, he has actively pushed ahead with the work of sending Korean residents in Japan to North Korea. With this merit, he was awarded "the Order of the National Flag, Class Two" from North Korea in 1963, and was elected as a deputy to North Korea's Fourth SPA in November 1967.

He was assigned the work as a counselor for North-South Red Cross talks that began August 1972, and thus he became familiar to South Korean people. Relieved from first vice chairmanship of Chongnyon in November of the same year, he stayed in North Korea, and held the posts of director of the Korean Revolutionary Museum (1977) and adviser to the Research Institute of South Korean Issues (1982). Rumor has it that he was confined to Sinuiju Reformatory from 1972 to 1977, but this has not been confirmed.

He was elected as chairman of the Social Democratic Party in July 1993, replacing Yi Kye-paek who died in January 1993. In December of the same year, he was appointed vice president of the state, together with Kim Yong-chu. It was observed that he was elected vice president as a means for appeasing Chongnyon organizations, that were seriously wavering with collapse of the socialist system in East Europe.

Together with Yu Mi-yong (wife of Choe Tok-sin), chairman of Chondoist Chongu Party, he delivered a speech as a representative of the party during the October 1994 condolence ceremony marking the 100th day of Kim Il-song's death, and pledged absolute loyalty to Kim Chong-il. It is likely that Kim Pyong-sik, together with Yu Mi-yong, will continuously maintain their present positions even under the Kim Chong-il system as part of North Korea's plan to display "an assortment of people."

Kim Pok-sin, vice premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the Light Industry Committee

She is a member of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council, and chairman of the Light Industry Committee. She was born in 1926 in Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province. Her academic background is not known, but there are two rumors: one is that she graduated from Kim Il-song University, the other is that she dropped out of middle school prior to national liberation, and greeted liberation while serving as plant worker. However, the details regarding her background have not yet been confirmed.

After graduating from WPK central party school [chungangdang hakkyo] in 1945, she began public life as vice minister in the Ministry of Light Industry in September 1958. In July 1960, she was assigned as deputy director of the WPK Department for Light Industry, and in 1961 was appointed as vice chairman of the Light Industry Committee, which was renamed from the WPK Department for Light Industry. In 1966 she served as deputy director of the General Bureau for Pyongyang Municipal Local Industry.

After serving as vice minister in the Ministry of Textile Industry in April 1971, she was assigned as minister of the textile industry in May 1971, one month after her previous appointment. In April 1973, she was assigned general director of the General Bureau of the Textile and Clothing Industry within the Light Industry Committee. In December 1981, she was promoted to vice premier and chairman of the Light Industry Committee, and fortified her position as a light industry expert in the Administration Committee. Since then, she has so far continued in her post as chairwoman of the Light Industry Committee, except for a period of three years from October 1985 to June 1988: during this time, she served as a trade minister (two months) and chairwoman of the External Economic Committee (two years and six months).

In the 1980's, prior to the collapse of the USSR, she visited the Soviet Union on many occasions and resolved the issue of providing aid to North Korea in the field of light industry. In November 1986, she became the first chairwoman of the Korea General International Joint Venture Company.

During the 8th plenary session of the 6th WPK Central Committee held in December 1983, she was elected as an alternative member of the Political Bureau of the WPK. Since then, she has continued in the post of alternative member for nearly ten years, moving into key circles of power. However, it has been confirmed that she was excluded [tallak] as an alternative member of the Political Bureau; this can be deduced by her absence on the rostrum during a resolution meeting to implement Kim Chong-il's letter reading "Let us more highly display the superiority of our people's government" held at the People's Palace of Culture in December 1992, as well as by her absence during a report meeting to mark the 75th anniversary of the birthday of Kim Chong-suk, the real mother of Kim Chong-il, which was held on 24 December.

However, her position as a light industry expert is confirmed. Along with Kim Kyong-hui, director of the WPK Department for Light Industry and the real sister of Kim Chong-il, she is expected to play an important role as an official responsible for the party's and the government's light industry during North Korea's development of light industry, which is directly related to the future improvement of the people's standard of living.

It has been learned that she has a strong body as well as a round and broad face, and that she also has a man-like active character as well as a strong faith. There are only two women ministers in the Administration Council: one is Kim Pok-sin, and the other is Yun Ki-chong, a minister in the Ministry of Finance.

Kim Sok-hyong, 79, scholar, historian who defected from South Korea, and adviser to the DPRK Academy of Social Sciences

He is a former South Korean historian who defected to North Korea. He is also an internationally known archaeologist. Kim works as an adviser at the History Institute under the Academy of Social Sciences. In the late 1950's, he created a sensation in the world's academic circles by publishing a treatise on the history of ancient Korea which reportedly refuted a similar history by a Japanese scholar. Several years later, he published a treatise on "The Relationship Between Ancient Korea and Japan" which even today is viewed as a classic study of ancient Korea.

In August 1990, Kim presented a treatise entitled "On the Era of Ancient Japan's Invasion of the Three Ancient Korean Kingdoms" to an academic seminar on ancient Korea held in Osaka, Japan. In the treatise he advocated the theory that the subordinate states of ancient Silla and Kaya had been established in Kyushu, Japan.

In particular, in recent years he has concentrated his academic efforts on studying Tangun and ancient Korea. Since October 1993, as part of his academic activities, he has held a "Seminar on the Study of Tangun and Ancient Korea" every year. In the second seminar held in 1994, he presented his treatises, namely "The Chronicle of the Founding of Ancient Korea and the Period of Tangun Korea," "The Economic System of Tangun Korea," "On the Central Area of Tangun Korea and Its Territory," and "On the Joint Tombs of Masters and Servants in the Era of Ancient Korea Which Have Been Excavated in the Pyongyang Area."

He was born in Taegu, South Korea, as the fourth son of a very prominent figure who had reportedly served as governor of North Kyongsang Province, South Korea, following national liberation.

He graduated from the History Department of Kyongsong Imperial University [the predecessor of Seoul National University]. He defected to North Korea in November 1945 while working in this school as a professor.

In North Korea, he served in the following posts after graduating from Kim Il-song University and receiving his doctorate: vice president of Kim Il-song University; director of the History Institute of the Academy of Sciences; director of the History Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences; vice president of the Marxism-Leninism Broadcasting College; member of the CPRF Central Committee; and deputy to the third through seventh SPA.

While attending an academic seminar in 1990 in Osaka, Japan, Kim met his brothers and sisters who live in Seoul.

Kim Song-ae, former first lady with an uncertain future, and chairman of the Korean Democratic Women's Union [KDWU].

Kim Song-ae is a member of the WPK Central Committee, a member of the SPA Standing Committee, and chairman of the KDWU. She is also the widow of Kim Il-song.

She was reportedly born in 1924 in South Pyongan Province (some say she was born in Haeju, Hwanghae Province). She attended Haeju Teachers' College, and later moved to Pyongyang Women Teachers' College. While in her third year at this college, the Korean War broke out. During the war, she worked as a typist at the Ministry of Culture. She reportedly met Kim Il-song in an underground bunker while working there.

Kim fell in love with Kim Il-song and lived with him. She gave birth to their first daughter, Kyong-chin, in 1952; to their son, Pyong-il, who is the incumbent North Korean ambassador to Finland, in 1954; and to their second son, Yong-il, in 1955. When she officially married Kim Il-song has not been made known yet, despite the fact that there have been many rumors and much speculation about this.

Her public career began with her election in 1965 as vice chairwoman of the KDWU. She was elected a member of the WPK Central Committee in the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970.

She was promoted to the post of chairwoman of the KDWU in 1971, and was elected deputy to the Fifth SPA and a member of its Standing Committee in December 1972. She held these posts up till the Ninth SPA.

In 1975 she visited Romania, Algeria, Mauritania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia, accompanying Kim Il-song as the first lady. She received the Great Medal of the Congo in 1973 and the Kim Il-song Medal in 1982.

Kim is said to be on fairly good terms with her husband's young brother, Kim Yong-chu. However, her relations with Kim Chong-il, son of Kim Il-song's first wife, have gradually deteriorated since Kim Chong-il was appointed as heir-apparent to his father.

When Kim Chong-il was made heir apparent in February 1974, he began to thoroughly eliminate her and her children—Kim Pyong-il in particular—from the core positions of power as part of the so-called operation "to remove Kim Song-ae's offspring."

In particular, as Kim Chong-il increased the idolization of his own mother, Kim Chong-suk, Kim Song-ae began to be eliminated from real power.

As regards the KDWU, as chairwoman Kim Song-ae is only a "figurehead"; Kim Chong-il's younger sister Kim Kyong-hui has been exercising all power. Except for Gorbachev, in most socialist countries the first lady has no great significance. This is another reason she did not possess any real power. Therefore, Kim did not accompany Kim Il-song when he met foreign leaders and their wives.

She began accompanying Kim Il-song when he met with Sihanouk and his wife, who frequently visited Pyongyang. When former U.S. President Carter visited North Korea in June 1994, she participated in the meeting and was photographed with them. In particular, when the issue of returning the bodies of U.S. soldiers who died during the Korean War was discussed between Kim Il-song and Carter, there were rumors this issue was satisfactorily solved after Kim Il-song listened to her views, in which he had shown disapproval. This suggested her status was different from the past.

She ranked 103d in the list of names on Kim Il-song's funeral committee. However, at the memorial rally, her name was called between the members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee. What also drew attention was that she stood beside her brother-in-law Kim Yong-chu. This can be viewed as she was the widow, but it also speculates that her role may be considerably enhanced during the Kim Chong-il era.

Kim Yong-nam, vice premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; highest career diplomat for 40 years

He is a member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, vice premier of the Administration Council, and foreign minister.

Kim Yong-nam was born in February 1925 in Myongchon, North Hamgyong Province, to a railway worker; he graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied in Moscow during the Korean War. He is a career diplomat who has served for 40 years, beginning his career as a guidance official at the WPK International Department in 1954.

He became a section chief of the WPK International Department in 1956; deputy director of the International Department in May 1963; first deputy director of the International Department in October 1972; and director of the International Department in December 1972. He became a WPK secretary in charge of international affairs in February 1975, and joined the team to map out the party's diplomatic policy. He was also elected a member of the WPK Central Committee at the fifth party congress in November 1970, thus becoming a member of the inner circle. He was elected a member of the Political Bureau a mere eight years later. He advanced into the inner circles very rapidly.

Briefly, Kim also concurrently served as chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries in 1961, and as vice foreign minister in 1963. He visited the Soviet Union, the PRC, and Romania, accompanying Kim Il-song or as a special envoy. He has visited foreign countries on 15 occasions, mostly as the head of WPK delegations, and occasionally attended international conferences. He also concurrently served as a member of the Standing Committee of the Fifth and Sixth SPA from December 1972 to February 1982.

Kim visited East Europe in May 1980 while accompanying Kim Il-song. At the party congress held in October that year, he retained his posts as member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; his rank in the party was boosted. He visited various countries in Europe, South America, and Asia four to five times a year for three years until he became foreign minister, replacing Ho Tam in December 1983. In this way, he greatly contributed to improving North Korea's capability to conduct diplomacy.

After concluding his 30-year career in the WPK International Department, he became vice premier of the Administration Council and then foreign minister. For over 10 years since, Kim Yong-nam has remained among the top 10 in North Korea's hierarchy, and has won the absolute trust of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il. He did not lose his job as the top leader of North Korea's diplomacy, despite the difficult circumstances in which North Korea has been isolated internationally following the collapse of the socialist system in East Europe in the latter half of the 1980's.

In particular, he commanded from behind the scenes the North Korea-U.S. nuclear negotiations, which were vital to North Korea's destiny, and brought about brilliant achievements in improving North Korea-U.S. relations. Therefore, he is reputed to be good at behind-the-scenes diplomacy as well as open diplomacy. He has a mild character and is well qualified as a diplomat.

If North Korea under Kim Chong-il attaches primary importance to foreign relations, he may become premier of the Administration Council, a post to which only economic officials have been appointed, except for Yi Chong-ok in the sixth cabinet of 1977. Kim Yong-nam received the Order of Kim Il-song, the highest honor, in 1982.

Kim Yong-chu, vice president of the state; the real power holder who made a comeback

He is a member of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party Central Committee and vice president of the state. Kim Yong-chu is the younger brother of the late Kim Il-song.

Born in 1922 in Mangyongdae, Taedong County, in South Pyongan Province (presently the Mangyongdae District of Pyongyang), Kim Yong-chu participated in Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrilla activities in Manchuria during his youth, and later went to the Soviet Union in 1941. After national liberation, he graduated from the Department of Politics and Economy at Moscow University, and studied in a high-level party school in Moscow.

When Kim Il-song put Yi Sung-yop and his followers on trial in March 1953 in an attempt to purge the main staffs of the South Korean Labor Party, Kim Yong-chu worked as court secretary. He became a guiding member [chidowon] in the organization and guidance department of the Workers' Party Central Committee in 1954, and was posted as chief of the department's guidance section in 1957. At the time, he began to demonstrate his ability. As the figure with practical responsibility for the so-called "party Central Committee's intensive guidance work" in 1958, he commanded the work of searching and purging counter-party and antirevolutionary elements.

In the course of collectivizing farms and eradicating individual commerce and industry following the armistice, a fierce class struggle was waged in North Korea. In addition, a bloody purge of the so-called Yonan and pro-Soviet factions was carried out from 1956 to 1958. Accordingly, the work to settle the consequences of these events was necessary. In addition, a wholesale purge of those who made even minor complaints against the party, not to mention acts causing damage to the party, was carried out in addition to forcing individuals to confess and surrender. Kim Yong-chu was the figure responsible for "the central party's intensive guidance" in charge of the purge.

He was elected a member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fourth WPK Congress in 1961. Following this, he worked as the director of the organization and guidance department of the WPK Central Committee in 1961, and as a candidate member of the WPK Political Committee and secretary in charge of organization in 1966. While holding control of the organization and guidance department of the WPK, he took the initiative in establishing Kim Il-song's monolithic leadership system. He was then elected a full member of the WPK Political Committee and a party secretary at the Fifth WPK Congress in 1970, thus rising to the number sixth rank in the order of power. In actuality, however, he was spotlighted as the second man to Kim Il-song, and even as Kim Il-song's successor.

In 1972, he signed the historic 4 July North-South joint statement as the counterpart to Yi Hu-rak, then director of South Korea's Central Intelligence Agency, and worked as North's chairman of the North-South Coordination Committee. However, he did not appear at the talks, sending Pak Song-chol as acting chairman. When the North-South Coordination Committee was unilaterally suspended in August 1973, Kim Yong-chu turned over the post of secretary in charge of party organization to Kim Chong-il, his nephew, in September, losing power gradually.

When Kim Chong-il was designated as Kim Il-song's successor in February 1974, Kim Yong-chu left the party and was transferred as deputy premier of the Administration Council. His internal and external activities soon diminished. Being pushed aside in a power struggle with the Kim Chong-il faction, he completely disappeared from official functions, with his participation in the Fifth Session of the Fifth SPA in April 1975 being the last. Rumor had it he was purged.

However, 18 years later on 26 July 1993, he appeared at the ceremony to unveil the Tower of War Victory built on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the armistice. His reappearance attracted attention in connection with

Kim Chong-il's power succession system. That day, North Korean broadcasts listed Kim Yong-chu under the title of "former premier," placing him between party secretary Chon Pyong-ho, the 10th rank in the order of power, and party secretary Han Song-yong, the 11th rank.

In December the same year, he was elected a member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president of the state. It was strongly suggested he had completely returned to the frontline of power. The view that his return is aimed at making him play a guardian role in the forthcoming Kim Chong-il era, as well as the view that his return is Kim Chong-il's idea formed as a result of his repeated failures to succeed to power, are in sharp contarst to each other.

Viewing the present situation in North Korea today following Kim Il-song's death, the former view is more persuasive. Nevertheless, people presume that Kim Yong-chu's "enmity" retained as a result of his 18-year forced seclusion by his nephew will not easily diminish. Thus, the latter view is also very persuasive. In particular, experts who view the Kim Chong-il system as insecure emphasize that Kim Yong-chu, along with Kim Song-ae, Kim Chong-il's stepmother who has been in the same situation, may resist Kim Chong-il.

Kim Yong-sun, director of the International Department of the WPK Central Committee; a man of diplomatic talent succeeding Ho Tam

North Korea's diplomatic circle has experienced a great change since the beginning of the nineties. In addition to external changes such as the collapse of the East European socialist countries and the former Soviet Union, Ho Tam, who was the carriage and pair of North Korea's diplomacy along with Kim Yong-nam, died in May 1991. Thus, some figures who had been overshadowed appeared in North Korea's diplomatic circle. One main figure is Kim Yong-sun.

Kim Yong-sun is not unfamiliar to us since he played the leading role in the talks to establish diplomatic relations with the United States and Japan in the beginning of the nineties. He was born in Pyongwon, South Pyongan Province in 1934. He graduated from Kim Il-song University and Moscow University. In January 1960, he became the vice chairman of the People's Committee of Kangwon Province. This marked the beginning of his public life. In June 1969, he became the chairman of the People's Committee of Wonsan, and in 1970, he was appointed as ambassador to Egypt, thus becoming a diplomat.

In 1973, he served as the vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and in 1974, he was appointed as the vice chairman of the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association. Thus, he became more knowledgeable about legal affairs. This was a great help to him during the work to establish diplomatic relations with the United States and Japan in the beginning of the nineties, and is believed that it also played a big role in fostering him to become a diplomat representing North Korea today.

Of course, his personal ability claimed a large share in occupying his position today as a diplomat representing North Korea, but Kim Chong-il's special confidence in him also influenced his position. Kim Yong-sun caught Kim Chong-il's eye when he was chosen as the vice director of the party's International Department at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980.

At that time, Kim Chong-il thought highly of his straightforward and kind personality, thus drew him in as one of his close aides. His personality sometimes harmed him. The February 1984 "social dance incident" by the members of the party's International Department is a good example. At that time he, who was the vice director, held a dance party with the cadres according to Kim Chong-il's instruction in which he said: "Since the party's International Department is a diplomatic department, you should learn social dances such as the polka." He was consequently "dismissed" after receiving inspection from the party's Organization Department.

Kim Yong-sun rested for one year due to this incident and then was restored to the party's International Department in August 1985. In December 1988, he was finally promoted to the position of director of the party's International Department. This would have been almost impossible if he was not a confidant of Kim Chong-il. Kim Chong-il's faith in him also appears from the fact that he is Kim Chong-il's drinking friend. This is because Kim Yong-sun sings and dances well and he can liven up the drinking atmosphere. Therefore, Kim Chong-il plays the main role if Kim Yong-sun is not present. Other than Kim Yong-sun, Kim Chong-il's other close drinking friends are party Secretary Kye Ung-tae; Kim Ki-nam, director of the party's Propaganda and Agitation Department; and his brother-in-law Chang Song-taek.

Kim Yong-sun, who was appointed director of the party's International Department in 1988, was chosen as vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA under Ho Tam in May 1990. Thus, he rose as the core figure in North Korea's diplomacy in both name and reality. In September 1990, he agreed with Japan's Kanemaru on the "joint declaration on DPRK-Japan relations" and he visited the United States in January 1992 and discussed the issue of establishing diplomatic relations with U.S. Undersecretary of State Arnold Kanter.

After that, he was chosen as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA in April 1992, which became vacant due to Ho Tam's death. In April 1993, he was replaced as chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the SPA. It was explained that such a shift in position was a personnel change rebuking the failure of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK-United States and the DPRK-Japan and nuclear negotiations, but a more dominant view is that it is a step to strengthen North Korea's policy toward the South. This is because if South-North relations progress smoothly, DPRK-U.S. and DPRK-Japan relations will also easily improve. It is predicted that even after Kim Chong-il assumes complete power, Kim Yong-sun will play a core role in North Korea's diplomacy and policy toward the South for a considerable period of time.

Kim Yun-hong, meritorious actor; Rose to the fore by playing the role of [the deceased former ROK] President Pak Chong-hui

Kim Yun-hong, a "meritorious actor," rose to stardom after playing the role of the late President Pak Chong-hui in North Korea's dramatic movie series "Nation and Destiny."

The "Nation and Destiny" series whose 18th segment has recently been released, has been produced since 1991 under Kim Chong-il's orders. It is expected to be a 50-part series.

This movie portrays the North Korean system as "a utopia" and the ROK's system as "a hell with no human rights or freedom" by portraying figures such as Choe Hong-hui, Choe Tok-sin, and Yun I-sang who rose to considerable positions in the ROK in the past, but who have since pursued a pro-North Korean line for political reasons. Many ROK political figures are portrayed in this movie as well. Here, Kim Yun-hong plays the role of President Pak.

A North Korean movie magazine describes Kim Yun-hong in this movie as: "Wonderfully playing the role of dictator Pak Chong-hui to perfection with facial expressions and appearance of an ambitious person and conspirator who has no reservations.

Born in Japan, he roamed about as a laborer before he went to North Korea. He is a fellow countryman who was residing in Japan before being repatriated to the North. He gained experience as an actor at the acting class of the Korean Film Studio and appeared in the movies "Yongsu and Yongok in Search of the Socialist Fatherland," "The Secret Envoy Does Not Return," and "Heroes With No Names." He received the title of meritorious actor in 1992 and this year he is 50 years old.

In addition to Kim Yun-hong, Pak Ki-chu, an actor affiliated to the pro-Pyongyang Federation of Korean Residents in Japan, is also active as an actor in North Korea's film circle.

Pak Ki-chu went to North Korea by way of the 23d repatriation ship and entered Pyongyang University of Drama and Film after applying for the second time. Thus, he entered the road of acting. After graduating from university, he appeared in more than 100 films. He made his debut in the film "Family of Choe Hak-sin." His other major films are "Guarantee" and "Strong Tree." He is known to be "an actor of various acting skills and an actor who makes efforts." Recently, in the sixth and seventh parts of "Nation and Destiny" he played the leading role of Choe Hong-hui. As a result of this role, he was praised by Kim Chong-il who said: "You acted very well by making the best of a taciturn and man-like character."

Kim Il-chin, regular conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra

He is a world-noted conductor North Korea is proud of. He won the first prize in the German Karajan International Conductors' Concours, an object of envy to the music students around the world, in 1985, and began to win fame around the world.

Kim, 40, has been the regular conductor of the North Korean National Symphony Orchestra since 1984. He studied conducting at the Tchaikovsky Music College in Moscow for six years from 1977 to 1983.

North Korea's propaganda magazines stress that Kim Il-chin's brilliant success as a conductor is attributable to Kim Chong-il's "consideration" for him. The death of Ho Che-pok, North Korea's representative conductor, in 1976 grieved Kim Chong-il so much that he sent eight young music students to Moscow to study there to succeed Ho, and Kim Il-chin was among them.

Several years ago, Kim Il-chin conducted the East Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. On the same day, Chong Myong-hun, ROK's conductor of musical genius, happened to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. This led the German press to comment, "It seems that the Korean demarcation line has moved to Germany."

He and his actress-wife have two sons, and his parents are said to be professors who majored in natural science.

In the meantime, another conductor who is said to be as brilliant as Kim Il-chin has emerged in North Korea. She is Cho Chong-nim of the Mansudae Art Troupe. Famous as the only woman conductor in North Korea, Cho Chong-nim is said to be one of the war orphans "whom Kim Il-song himself nurtured," and is treated better than she is credited for.

Since she conducted at the music festival of the Japan-resident Koreans under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon] held in Saitama, Japan in May 1991, Cho Chong-nim began to be known to Western countries. She was born in Hwanghae Province in 1940 and lost her parents in the Korean war. She went to Pyongyang No. 1 Primary School, a school for orphans, and went to Romania in May 1953 to study for four years with other orphans.

While studying in Romania, she was fascinated by East European music and became a musician. Returning to Pyongyang, she studied at the Pyongyang Music College and majored in conducting. Graduating from this college as top honor student, she continued her career as a conductor at Pibada [Sea of Blood] Opera House and Mansudae Art Troupe, and was conferred the titles of "meritorious artist" and "the people's artist."

When Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai visited North Korea in the seventies, she conducted in the concert held to welcome him. It is said that Zhou Enlai then commended her, saying, "There is not such a brilliant conductor in China with a population of 800 million people." Cho Chong-nim, whose favorite composers are Schubert, Dvorak, and Tchaikovsky, stressed, "I will conduct even in the face of bayonets if it is of any help to national reunification." She and her husband, a screen writer, have two daughters.

Naval Commander Kim Il-chol, the figure who led the Pueblo incident

Kim Il-chol is a member of the WPK Central Committee, a member of the WPK Central Military Commission, and a general of the People's Army.

As a leading figure for the modernization of North Korean military, he graduated Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and the Naval Academy. He then graduated from the Soviet Unions Naval Academy. In 1965, he participated in the construction of naval vessels and an underground naval base as staff of North Korea's Navy Command Headquarters. In 1968, he was promoted to the deputy Chief of Staff of the Navy Command Headquarters. In the same year, he reportedly commanded in the front the hijacking of USS Pueblo from the East Sea.

He won Kim Chong-il's confidence accompanying him to various military units and naval vessels as his naval adviser. In 1971, he was elected Chief of Staff of the Navy Command Headquarters and, in 1978, was promoted to the commander of the Navy Command Headquarters. In 1978, he was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee. In 1980, he was appointed as member of WPK Military Central Commission at the meeting of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.

In 1985, he was appointed colonel general. Between 1986 and before the collapse of Soviet Union, he had visited a naval post in Vladivostok by leading a naval squadron every other year. Also, he visited China several times as the head of a friendship delegation. In 1992, he was promoted to general. He is expected to keep his post even in the Kim Chong-il era.

Kim Chong-u, chairman of the External Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee

He is vice chairman of the External Economic Committee and chairman of the External Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee.

Born in Sinpa County, Yanggang Province in November 1942, he graduated from Kim Il-song University. As seen from his previous career experience, he is an economic expert: He served as the North Korean economic delegate to the North-South high-level talks that began in September 1990, and was the North side's co-chairman of the Exchange and Cooperation Subcommittee and the Joint Economic Exchange Committee.

Along with Kim Tal-hyon and Yi Song-tae, he is known as one of North Korea's officials who support economic openness. He is known to be a man who enjoys the high confidence of the North Korean leadership, namely Kim Chong-il, as witnessed by his straightforward expression of prospects to South Korean reporters for inter-Korean economic exchange. He is expected to carry out prominent activities when the North's economic cooperation with Western countries, such as the United States and Japan, and inter-Korean economic exchange are activated in the wake of the U.S.-North Korean Geneva agreement.

Beginning his career as a section chief of No. 2 Facilities Import Company in 1975, he was president of No. 1 Facilities Company in January 1979. Since June 1982, when he was appointed vice minister of External Economy, he has been in charge of external economic affairs. He visited China as deputy head of a machine industrial delegation, visited the Soviet Union as head of an economic delegation in 1983, and visited Austria as head of an economic delegation in April 1985.

In January 1992, he was appointed chairman of the External Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee, which serves as a working channel for economic exchange with foreign countries. Since the External Economic Ministry was merged into the External Economic Committee, he has been serving as vice chairman of the External Economic Committee.

Kim Chung-nin, member and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; "Brains" of operative against South Korea with acclaimed linguistic ability

Member and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Chung-nin was born in 1942 in Pyoktong County, South Pyongan Province. Before national liberation, he taught at a school for a while and after liberation, he began his party career as a Communist Party enthusiast. In 1948, he was appointed director of a department in the Workers Party's North Hamgyong Provincial Committee. In 1954, after the Korean war broke out, he was posted as a deputy director of a department in the WPK Central Committee, thus advancing to the central stage.

In 1959, he attended the Geneva talks to discuss the issue of repatriating Korean residents in Japan to North Korea with the Japanese Red Cross side in the capacity of a Standing Committee member of the North Korean Red Cross Central Committee. He thus became involved in repatriation work since then. During the Fourth WPK Congress in September 1961, he was elected as candidate member of the party Central Committee. Following this, in 1962, he was posted to director of the department of culture in the WPK.

He went unnoticed by the people in the 1950's to 1960's. However, he began to distinguish himself in April 1969 when he replaced Ho Pong-hak to take over control of works on South Korea as secretary of the WPK in charge of works on South Korea. With this as an occasion, he was elected as candidate member of the party's Political Committee at the Fifth WPK Congress in November 1970, thus rising to the center of power.

Around 1975, however, he resigned from all official positions and disappeared from public for some time. This was reportedly owing to the fact that he was held responsible for the repeated failures in work against South Korea, including the exposure of the underground tunnels which were to be used for a Southward invasion. However, in September 1976, he assumed the post of director of the Research Institute of South Korean Affairs, which was an organization of operations against South Korea, and in November 1977, he was appointed as secretary of the WPK in charge of works toward South Korea and simultaneously as director of the united front department. He regained his membership of the WPK Political Committee which he was deprived of and thus succeeded in rising again.

At the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980, he was elected as Political Bureau member and secretary of the party. Thus, his ability in carrying out works related to South Korea continued to be recognized. However, in December 1983, he was again demoted to candidate member of the Political Bureau and was deprived of the post of secretary at the same time. Thus, he completely withdrew himself from works related to South Korea. Since then, he has been in and out of the WPK Central Committee and Secretariat in one-year intervals, and was finally transferred to the position of president of the Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] and chairman of the Public Information Committee in August 1986.

He again rose to the post of party secretary during the 14th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee in November 1988. But this time, his "specialization" was changed as he was placed in charge of worker's organizations. His rise and fall have been more frequent than that of any other in North Korea, because he tried to be too clever and got trapped by his own wiles. He has the brain of a genius and exceptional linguistic ability, and has remarkable writing ability. In 1960, he published a book entitled "Kim Il-song Biography" in Japanese, English and French, through the Chongnyon, and distributed the books on a large scale overseas. As a result, he enjoyed the deep trust of Kim Il-song in his lifetime.

Kim Chang-ho, chairman of the Electronic Automation Industry Committee of the Administration Council; expert in electronic industry who came from the military logistic industry

Kim Chang-ho is a member of the WPK Central Committee; chairman of the Electronic Automation Industry Committee of the Administration Council and chairman of the General Federation of Industrial Technical Workers of Korea.

He is an expert in the electronic automation industry sector. Born in Hyesan City in Yanggang Province in 1930, he graduated from Kim Chaek Industry College, and worked as senior engineer for television broadcasts of the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee in 1963. He was then promoted to vice chairman of the committee in charge of technical matters. Following this, from 1973 to 1976, he visited Japan seven times to discuss television broadcasting technology and to purchase conveyor-belt facilities and electronic automation systems.

He was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee during the Sixth Party Congress in 1980, and was appointed chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee of the Administration Council in April 1982. After 10 months, he was transferred to minister of construction material industry. He was dismissed from this position in 1985, and at the same time, he was relieved of candidate membership of the party Central Committee. Remaining inactive for a while, he made a comeback in September 1988 and was appointed minister of communications.

He was elected again as a candidate member of the Central Committee during the 16th Plenary Meeting of the Sixth WPK Central Committee in June 1989. In December 1990, he turned over the post of communications minister to Kim Hak-sop and was transferred to chairman of the Electronic Automation Industry Committee. Both Kim Hak-sop and Kim Chang-ho came from the Second Economy Committee, which is in charge of the military logistic industry. The Second Economy Committee is the birth place of outstanding North Korean economic experts. He was elected a full member of the party Central Committee in December 1992, thus rising into the center of power.

Poet Kim Chol, whose masterpiece "Mother," extols the party

Kim Chol is a representative poet of North Korea. He graduated from the first graduating class of the Writers' Academy and began creative work in the early 1950's. With literary works, such as "Mother," "In the Iron City," "Endless Talk," and so forth, he has joined the ranks of North Korean literati. In particular, his poem, "Mother" which praises the WPK, is viewed as his most successful work.

"You are mother. You are our mother who shared blood and breath, and even destiny and future with us. You are our mother who prevented the wind, rain, and even death from attacking us. You are our mother who protects us from everything...."

North Korean literary critics praised the poem as "containing profound philosophical thought and reflecting our people's ardent aspiration to uphold and follow the party." When the exchange of greetings with his elder brother Kim Han, a painter in South Korea, was carried in a magazine, Kim Chol became the subject of people's conversation.

In June 1950, immediately after the Korean war broke out, he voluntarily joined the North Korean Army at the age of 17, and became a WPK member in 1951. When the Korean war ended, he entered the Writers' Academy and studied literature. He has since carried out literary activities as a poet.

His masterpiece, "Mother," was completed in 1980 when Kim Chong-il was designated the successor to Kim Il-song. Explaining his motive for the work, he wrote: "I became keenly aware of the significance in our people's wish to refer to the WPK as mother since our people came to uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il at the supreme position of our party. This is what prompted my poetic creation."

Kim Chol is now 62 years old, and Kim Han, his elder brother, is 64.

Kim Chol-man, member of the National Defense Commission; first-generation revolutionist who returned to power in the 1990's

He is a member of the WPK Central Committee and a candidate member of the Political Bureau.

Born in 1918 in South Pyongan Province, Kim Chol-man is a first-generation revolutionist who followed Kim Il-song to Manchuria and joined the anti-Japanese guerrillas. When the KPA was founded following liberation, he was appointed regimental commander (senior colonel) of the 25th Regiment of the 10th Division. In 1955, following the Korean War, he was promoted to major general and appointed division commander of the 37th Division. He was promoted to lieutenant general in 1962, and chief of operations of the Ministry of National Defense (now the Ministry of People's Armed Forces) in 1964.

He continued to ascend to Second Corps commander in 1965, deputy chief of the General Staff (colonel general) in 1968, and first deputy chief of the General Staff and director of operations in July 1970. He visited the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the PRC in 1964 and 1970, respectively. He was elected a member of the Central Committee during the Fifth Party Congress of the WPK held in November 1970.

Kim advanced into the core of power when he was elected a member of the WPK Political Bureau in 1976. In 1977, he was reappointed first chief of the General Staff of the KPA, and at the Sixth WPK Party Congress held in October 1980 was elected a member of the Political Bureau as well as a member of the Military Commission of the Central Committee.

In 1981, Kim was appointed chairman of the Second Economic Committee of the Central People's Committee [CPC], and thus controlled North Korea's military industry. In 1982, he was excluded from the WPK Political Bureau and the Military Commission of the Central Committee, and disappeared from all official posts. No particular reason was noted for his disappearance, except age.

At the 18th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee held in May 1990, he was reelected a candidate member of the Political Bureau, along with Choe Yong-nim and Choe Tae-pok. Kim fully returned to power when he was reelected a member of the Defense Commission at the first meeting of the Ninth SPA, which was held following the WPK Plenary Session.

As a first-generation revolutionist, he is likely to retire during the Kim Chong-il era. However, there have been no significant changes, and he still ranks number one among the members of the WPK Political Bureau.

Kim Hak-sop, minister of post and telecommunications of the Administration Council

Kim Hak-sop is a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and the minister of post and telecommunications.

Along with Kim Chang-ho, his background is from the Second Economic Committee. This is the second time he has assumed the office of minister of post and telecommunications.

He was a deputy director in the WPK Central Committee in 1971, and assumed the office of minister of post and telecommunications for the first time in 1974. He visited Zambia, the Soviet Union, the PRC, and Cuba to sign telecommunications treaties. In 1978, he led a party delegation to East Germany and Hungary.

At the 16th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee held in 1989, he was belatedly elected as a candidate member. In December 1990, he replaced Kim Chang-ho and assumed the office of minister of post and telecommunications for the second time.

Kim Hwan, vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of the chemical industry; another essential figure for economic opening up

Kim Hwan is a WPK Central Committee member, vice premier of the Administration Council, and minister of the chemical industry.

He was born in Huchang County, North Pyongan Province (presently Huchang County in Chagang Province), in 1929, and grew up under the care of his grandparents. Kim Hwan is known as the son of Kim Hyok, who is respected as a "hero" in North Korea for his rescuing Kim Il-song by sacrificing his own life when Kim Il-song was arrested by Japanese police while carrying out anti-Japanese guerrilla activities.

Kim Hwan graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy following national liberation, then from the Chemical Industry Department of Kim Il-song University. At the end of the Korean War, he went to Karl Marx Industrial College and its graduate school in Leipzig, East Germany, majoring in chemistry. Kim Hwan is regarded as the top expert in the chemical industry in North Korea, particularly in the field of chemical weaponry.

In the program "Repercussions of the People" carried by the Central Broadcasting Network on 10 July 1994, two days after Kim Il-song's death, he stated: "When I was wandering about at the age of 14, not knowing where I should go after losing my father, Kim Il-song warmly embraced me in his bosom, enabling me to study freely in the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and to grow." He added that he could study even in foreign countries after serving as Kim Il-song's body guard during the Korean War.

He was an associate researcher at the Chemical Industry Research Institute under the Ministry of Heavy Industries in 1961; an instructor in the Analysis Chemistry Department in Hamhung Chemical Industry College in 1963; a researcher at the High-Heat Chemical Research Institute in the Hamhung Branch of the Academy of Sciences in 1967; vice minister of the textile and paper manufacturing industry in 1968; and vice minister of the chemical industry in August 1972. In December 1972, he was appointed as minister of the chemical industry in the Administration Council.

With the emergence of Kim Chong-il in the late 1970's, Kim Hwan began to rise as the backbone force, and was assigned as a director of a WPK department in 1975. In September 1977, he was elected as a candidate member of the Political Committee and a secretary of the WPK; in October 1980, he became a full member of the Political Committee and a secretary of the party. He rose to the post of vice premier of the Administration Council in June 1983, thus being promoted to higher positions without interruption.

He was relieved as vice premier in 1985, and worked as a mere secretary of the WPK for about a year. In December 1986, he made a comeback to the post of chairman of the Administration Council's Chemical and Light Industry Committee. He again rose to vice premier (in charge of the chemical and light industry) only three months after making his comeback. He has held the position of minister of the chemical industry since June 1988.

He once fell out of Kim Il-song's favor for his excessively innovative way of thinking, thus being left behind in the ranks of power. However, seeing as there is no equal expertise in the chemical industry such as Kim's, and that he is a "blind follower" of Kim Chong-il, he could maintain the position of minister of the chemical industry in the Administration Council.

Since Kim Il-song died and the Kim Chong-il era is pending, it is simply a matter of time before Kim Hwan rises to the center of power. In particular, he is regarded as part of a "troika" of economic bureaucrats along with Yon Hyong-muk and Kang Song-san, former and incumbent premiers. Of ordinary height, Kim Hwan is solidly-built. He is handsome and wears thick rimmed-eyeglasses, thus offering a scholastic impression. He is also estimated to possess political leadership.

He is regarded as the figure who will be appointed to an important position in the event North Korea seeks economic opening up in any form in the future.

Nam Tae-hyon, novelist; his love stories are beloved by the younger generation

Because of the influence of foreign culture that began to be imported in the middle of the 1980's, many changes occurred in North Korea's culture and arts, as well as other fields, during the later years of the decade. In particular, the 1987 Pyongyang Festival exerted a great influence not only upon cultural circles, but upon juveniles' way of thinking. Plainly speaking, they began to grow tired of a social structure that valued only ideological significance. The so-called "Nolsae"—North Korea's version of upper-class decadent youths who are called the "Orange Group" in the South—soon appeared in North Korea. They view love affairs as totally different from marriage, a view broadly disseminated among North Korean juveniles. Nolsae is composed mainly of children of high-ranking cadres of the party, the government, and the army. They reportedly watch sex videos together, and even sexually attack women.

Accordingly, novels, movies, and plays that only stress unitary ideology are partially curbed, and works with so-called "complex themes" have been introduced into North Korea's cultural circles. These works are based on love stories which will interest juveniles. A compromise between the party policy on literature, which attaches importance to ideology, and the influence of foreign trends, these works are love stories that will interest juveniles while being underlaid with ideology.

Of course, these works are created by comparatively young authors; Nam Tae-hyon is representative of them.

Nam Tae-hyon is a learned author with unusual experience. He was born in the ROK and lived in Japan. His works are assessed to be very realistic because of his abundant life experience. "Song of Youth," a novel based on Nam's own experience—which was also published in Seoul by an ROK publishing company—is his representative work.

Nam Tae-hyon was born on 12 June 1947 in North Kyongsang Province, the ROK; he moved to Japan to find his father in 1960 when he was 13 years old. There he attended the Chongnyon-affiliated Choson High School in Tokyo before returning to North Korea in January 1963 via the 102d North Korea-bound ship.

Asked about his reason for returning to Pyongyang, he stated: "I realized that those who have no money or influence can never ward off the state in Seoul, Tokyo, or any society governed by the law of the jungle."

In North Korea, Nam graduated from the Language and Literary Department of Kim Il-song University, then began his life as an author following writing classes. In addition to "Song of Youth," he also wrote "When I Was Young," "A Physical Geography Teacher," "A New Star of Kwangju," "Young People at Yonghaechang," and others.

His representative novel "Song of Youth" was created based on his experience at the Hwanghae Steel Complex. It is a story "about contemplations and research carried out by a young scientist named Chinho who was trying to create technological innovations desired by the great leader, as well as the love he experienced during the course of creating these innovations."

Because of this novel—which was praised for "accurately describing the true image of young people as required by the party, while realistically dealing with love between lovers"—Nam Tae-hyon emerged at once as the most famous North Korean author.

Regarding the publication of his novel in Seoul, Nam Tae-hyon said: "Its publication is grateful, but the novel was introduced there differently from my original intent. I want South Korean publishers to correctly convey the substance of my works if they are going to publish other works of mine in the future."

He currently belongs to Pyongyang Production Group and is assessed as the most influential author to lead North Korean literary circles in the future.

Besides Nam Tae-hyon, North Korea also has 10 authors, actors, and actresses from Chongnyon. For example, there are the authors Yu Pyok, Yi Ho-in, Yun Su-kyong, and Kim Tae-kyong, as well as the actors Kim Yun-hong and Pak Ki-chu. Writing the long novel "A Long Way of Sunbeams," Yu Pyok already holds a firm position in North Korean literary circles; other authors are also expected to become influential.

No Myong-kun, director of the WPK Finance Department; manager of Kim Chong-il's personal coffers

No Myung-kun is a member of the WPK Central Committee and director of the WPK Finance Department. He is still shrouded in mystery. However, he will likely rise high in the power structure along with Chang Song-taek, director of the Three Revolutions Team Department of the WPK, because he is the closest aide to Kim Chong-il, serving as director of the WPK Finance Department since 1983 and managing the party's treasury, as well as being responsible for Kim Chong-il's personal coffers.

He was elected as member of the WPK Central Committee at the sixth party congress in 1980, ranking 45th in the party hierarchy. No was still listed among the top 50 members of the funeral committee for Kim Il-song in July 1994. He was appointed as director of the WPK Finance Department in 1983, and adviser of the Changgwang General Management Bureau in July 1986.

The Changgwang General Management Bureau supervises renowned restaurants along the second section of Changgwang Street in downtown Pyongyang; it is under the control of the WPK's Finance Department. Many of these restaurants accept foreign currencies, and thus serve as an important source of foreign exchange for North Korea. All foreign exchange earned by these restaurants is reportedly funneled to Kim Chong-il's "personal coffer" through the party Finance Department.

Apartment houses and the renowned Koryo Hotel exist along Changgwang Street.

Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee; statistics expert who once worked as Kim Kyong-hui's private tutor

Pak Nam-ki is a member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee.

Born in 1928 in Haeju, Hwanghae Province, he graduated from Kim Chaek University of Technology and studied at the former Soviet Union's Leningrad University of Technology.

Beginning his career as the guidance section chief of the WPK Commercial and Financial Planning Department in 1958, he served as vice director of the Central Statistics Bureau of the State Planning Committee in 1963, and was appointed deputy director of the WPK Commercial and Financial Planning Department in 1969.

In early 1972, Pak was elected deputy minister of the metal industry; one year later, he was transferred to the post of vice general director of the General Bureau of Designing within the Construction Ministry. He returned to the State Planning Committee in 1976 as vice chairman. During the period of the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984), he worked out a draft for and carried out economic planning. In May 1984, he was promoted as director of the No. 2 Economic Affairs Department of the WPK, the department in charge of the munitions industry.

In December 1984, he was elected secretary for economic affairs at the 10th Plenary Session of the Sixth Party Central Committee. In order to successfully implement the Third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993), Pak was appointed chairman of the State Planning Committee of the Administration Council. However, after 10 months in office, he was dismissed, handing over the post to Hong Song-nam.

He was reappointed to the post of WPK secretary in November 1988; however, in November 1993 he was downgraded to chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, succeeding Kang Hui-won (who died in July 1994).

He is an statistical expert, second only to Yun Ki-pok. Pak is strong in mathematics and has a deep knowledge of economics as well as other fields. It has been learned that he once worked as a private tutor of economic affairs for Kim Kyong-hui, sister of Kim Chong-il, while serving as WPK secretary.

Pak Mi-song, poet

The most representative symbols of Kim Chong-il which North Korea has put forth so far are the "Kim Chong-il flower" and "Chong-il Peak." In particular, the Kim Chong-il flower, which is purported to have been produced after 20 years of research by the Japanese botanist Mototeru Kamo and offered to Kim Chong-il on his 44th birthday in February 1986, has special significance in that it is the first symbol to represent Kim Chong-il.

As a result, North Korean writers have published numerous works on the Kim Chong-il flower, and of these, Pak Mi-song's poem "Kim Chong-il Flower" is considered to be the greatest.

"Like our hearts that rush with longing,/ These buds bloom red throughout this land./ Ah, red, red Kim Chong-il flower of loyalty./ Our one mind to serve fills each of your buds."

This poem was then made into a popular song by composer U Chong-hui and propagated and spread extensively among the masses, and the song won high praise from North Korean critics who said, "The composer chose a supple and deeply meditative tune appropriate for the high ideological and chuche-oriented contents of the poem, thus leaving a deeply emotional and lasting effect on the people."

Pak Mi-song, who is said to be the most highly regarded poetess in North Korea, was born in Sariwon, Hwanghae Province and is 55 years old. She was brought up in a relatively favorable environment before the Korean war, but lost her parents during the war. As an orphan, she once worked in a coal mine. Working as a miner, she enrolled herself as a correspondent student in the linguistics and literature department of Kim Il-song University and studied literature. Upon graduation, she made her debut as a writer. The work with which she made her literary debut was a one-act drama "wild crysanthemum." Failing to distinguish herself as a dramatist, however, she changed her specialty to poetry in the eighties.

Since the publication of her work "Kim Chong-il Flower," she has been active in her field, publishing such works as "Our Leader."

She and her husband Yi Kye-chang, a meritorious artist of the Korean Studio of Film Art, have two daughters.

Another North Korean poetess in the same top ranks as Pak Mi-song is Choe No-sa. Choe No-sa, daughter of Mrs. Sok Kum-song, the old-time ROK actress, published such works as "Let's Drink a Toast," "We Are the Best," and "At the Water Well." Of these, "At the Water Well" was sung extensively as a wartime song during the Korean war.

Interviewed by a reporter of a North Korean magazine recently, Choe No-sa revealed that she was born and raised in Seoul, that her father was talented writer Choe Song-il, and that her mother was the famous drama actress Sok Kum-song.

After going North with her father Choe Song-il and her three younger siblings in March of 1948, Choe No-sa made her debut as a writer while serving as an Army nurse in the Korean war.

As for her defection to the North, Choe No-sa claimed that "The decision was based on the resolve of my mother who sought the best future for her children," and added, "I was named No-sa by my mother Sok Kum-song as she wanted me to shine like dew in the desert."

Choe Song-il, Choe No-sa's father, is the elder brother of Choe Sung-hui, a dancer who defected to the North and later became the wife of former North Korean Vice Minister of Culture An Mak.

Pak San-un, poet; the doyen of North Korea's poetry society who sings of unification

Pak San-un is accorded utmost treatment as the doyen of North Korea's poetry world, and is practically the only defected poet who still writes poetry. Recently, he published his eighth collection of poems entitled "The Country Where I Live." The collection includes poems written after 1990. Major works included in this collection are "Because We Live Under Sun and Stars," "Flames of October," "His Poem," "Eternal War Correspondent," and "His Victory," which all praise Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il, and the North Korean-style of socialism. "Eternal War Correspondent" especially praises the North Korean system by featuring Yi In-mo, an unconverted long-term prisoner repatriated to North Korea.

Pak San-un defected to North Korea in September 1948. On this event, he later stated: "I defected since I was selected as one of the representatives of the South Korean people on the eve of the reconstruction of the republic." Before his defection, he jointly published a collection of poetry, "Poet's House," with Cho Pyok-am and Kim Sang-hun, who also defected to North Korea. At one time, he worked as a reporter at "HYUNDAI MUNHAK" where Kim Ki-rim worked as editor-in-chief.

In his early days in North Korea, Pak was not in full swing; however, after the 1960's, he began to receive the spotlight by publishing poems praising hard labor, such as "Chongsanri Is Everywhere" and "Let Us All March Ahead to the Seven-Year Plan," as well as poems denouncing ROK society, such as "To Chonggaechon," "The Last Extremity," and "To the South Korean Youths and Students Who Are Fighting." The work "To Chonggaechon," which compares Chonggaechon to the ROK's political situation in the 1960's, is regarded as a classic by the North Korean poetry world. His other most important works are "Upholding the Nation's Sun" and "The Train Called Reunification Runs." He is called "the greatest poet who is an expert on the subject of reunification."

Pak San-hun, who is prolific, is 80. It is difficult to view him as a figure of the Kim Chong-il era. However, he is expected to continuously exercise power in the North Korean poetry world as long as he lives since he is "the doyen of the North Korean poetry world who deals with the subject of reunification."

Pak Song-chol, vice president; the one who gave birth to the 4 July Joint Declaration

Member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice president, and member of the Central People's Committee. Confirmed to be the husband of a cousin of Kim Il-song.

Born in North Hamgyong Province in 1912, Pak Song-chol once worked as a coal miner in Manchuria and joined Kim Il-song's Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army in the 1930's. (Others say he graduated from Japan's Shoshi University and played an active role in the communist party in Japan at the time. He then went to Manchuria to join the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army.) He went to the former Soviet Union in 1942 and returned home with Kim Il-song in the wake of national liberation in 1945.

In 1948, he participated in the foundation of the People's Army and became chief of staff of the Third Division. During the Korean war, he served as division commander (major general) of the 15th Division. After the war, he was promoted to lieutenant general and served as director of the reconnaissance bureau of the National Defense (now the Ministry of People's Armed Forces) for a while.

He began his diplomatic career when he was appointed ambassador to Bulgaria in August 1954. While serving as ambassador, he won recognition for his talent in just two years. In 1956, he was selected for the post of the director of the International Department of the WPK and, in the same year, he was promoted to vice foreign minister. Finally, in October 1959, he became the foreign minister, directing North Korean diplomacy at its forefront.

It was said that his appointment to the post of foreign minister was a result of his vigorous activities in Japan as a member of the communist party and his contribution to gaining economic assistance from communist countries in the late 1950's. It also appears that there were hardly any figures with Pak Song-chol's education background among the North Korean leadership who had participated in the anti-Japanese guerrilla movement.

Elected member of the WPK Central Committee in September 1961, and promoted to the post of candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee in June 1964, he rose rapidly to a high post.

Prior to this, in July 1961, he accompanied Kim Il-song to the former Soviet Union and China, participating in the signing of military alliance treaty with the former Soviet Union and China. In April 1965, he visited Indonesia with Kim Il-song.

For his contribution to the establishment of diplomatic ties with the countries in the Middle East and Africa—including his participation in the Asian-African Foreign Ministers' meeting (Algeria) in July 1965—he was selected for the post of vice premier and foreign minister in October 1966.

Endeavoring to promote estranged relations with China, he visited China as the head of the party delegation in June 1970. Upon his return in July, he was elected second vice premier. In the same year, he was appointed member of the Political Committee at the Fifth Party Congress, becoming the number three man behind Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

During his secret visit to Seoul that lasted for five days from 29 May 1972, he contributed to the birth of the 4 July North-South Joint Declaration. In the process of inter-Korean dialogue, he visited Seoul as the North side's acting chairman of the North-South Coordination Committee in lieu of Kim Yong-chu. With that as an momentum, he became known to the public.

In December 1972, he was appointed to the post of vice premier and chairman of the People's Service Committee when the cabinet was reorganized into the Administration Council. In April 1976, he was selected as premier of the Administration Council. In December 1977, he handed over the premiership to the Yi Chong-ok and became the vice premier and a member of the Central People's Committee. In 1980, he was elected member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress.

From the 1980's, he frequently visited Eastern Europe, Africa, and South America as Kim Il-song's special envoy or delegation head and carried out diplomatic activities in lieu of Kim Il-song. This probably stems from Kim Il-song's fear of flying due to his acrophobia.

He is quite large and tall. He has a round face and a benign appearance. He has a mild personality and constantly has a smile on his face. Pak is an unworldly-minded person who, quite unlike Yi Chong-ok, who is stubborn, has been on good terms with others.

He is over 80, the same age as Kim Il-song. However, he is quite healthy and has participated in various events at home and abroad. Right after Kim Il-song's death, he went to Libya to participate in the ceremony marking its 1 September National Holiday and delivered Kim Chong-il's thanks to countries represented there.

Pae Kil-su, a gymnast, "a people's athlete" who has the world's best gymnastic technique

Pae Kil-su is a world-class gymnast from North Korea. He is highly reputed as a gold medalist at both Olympic and world championship games, and has been awarded the title of People's Athlete for such meritorious service.

At 24, he now attends the Korea University of Physical Education, and has been a gymnast for over ten years. Over the past ten years, he has won six championship cups and approximately 30 medals at dozens of gymnastic events at home and abroad, including a gold medal in the horizontal bar and second runner-up in the pommel horse at the Asian Games held in Beijing in 1990, and a gold medal in the pommel horse at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. At present, he is ranked as one of the best in the world in the men's pommel horse, and is said to be especially good in each of his body movements.

In this regard, a North Korean magazine has given him the highest praise, saying: "...he begins his movements by mounting the pommel horse with agility and gracefulness. His movements will climax in a succession of turns and twists, and with a 180 degree-turn for which he changes the positions of his hands at one handle bar of the pommel horse. His peculiar technique and correctness in making quick body movements in just a few minutes constitutes perfect harmony, thereby making viewers believe they are looking at a work of art."

Paek Nam-chun, director of the Secretariat of the CPRF; a rational and well-rounded person playing a role in dialogue with the South

Paek Nam-chun is the director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] as well as a member of the Reunification Policy Committee of the SPA.

He participated in South-North dialogue one year before An Pyong-su, and is one year older than An. Nevertheless, An Pyong-su has always been promoted before him. Paek Nam-chun is rather chubby and has a round, gentle face. It has been assessed that up until now, Paek has been regarded as the most well-rounded character among the delegates to the North Korean delegation to the South-North talks. However, he is not a person of real power.

He was born in 1929; later, he graduated from Kim Il-song University. In 1972, he took part in the South-North Red Cross talks in the capacity of vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and as an advisory member of the Red Cross Society Central Committee. He retired from his work with the South In 1974, and was appointed ambassador to Poland. Paek was summoned home in 1979.

In 1983, he assumed the post of president of the Foreign Languages Publishing House; in 1984, making the best of his past experience, he became a standing member of the Red Cross Society Central Committee. In the same year, Paek visited Taesongdong in the ROK to deliver relief goods as the delegate of the North Korean Red Cross Society.

In 1985, Paek was appointed vice chairman of the Korean Journalists Union. However, in 1990 he participated in the South- North high-level talks as councillor of the Administration Council. In the same year, An Pyong-su was promoted to vice chairman of the CPRF; Paek was promoted to director of its Secretariat.

Paek In-chun, chairman of the General Federation of the Literature and Arts Unions of Korea; "godfather" of North Korea's literary circle

The weight Kim Chong-il occupies in North Korea's culture and arts is absolute. This is because poems, novels, dramas, and movies are all created in accordance with Kim Chong-il's orders and intention. Kim Chong-il does not take a direct part in all the literary works published in North Korea, but the principle in creating the works and the themes of the works are all in accordance with Kim Chong-il's literary policy. Works said to have been created by Kim Chong-il—"Science of Film and Art," "Theory of Architecture," and "Theory of Literature"—are emphasized as Bibles in creating North Korea's literary works.

As such, several proxies inevitably appear to execute Kim Chong-il's literary policy in the fields of culture and art. One of the main figures is Paek In-chun. In a nutshell, he is the "godfather" of North Korea's literary circles, and can be regarded as a man of influence second only to Kim Chong-il.

In addition to the fact that he is currently chairman of the General Federation of the Literature and Arts Unions of Korea, and is in charge of all of North Korea's literary circles from which he can exercise his influence, another point that shows Paek's influence in North Korea's literary circles is that he obtained Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's confidence while working as the head of the Mt. Paektu Creative Group, the highest core department in the literary field.

The Mt. Paektu Creative Group consists of workers who professionally create works praising only Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il. Paek In-chun is the originator of this organization. When the work praising Kim Il-song was being carried out on a full-scale in the mid-1960's, Paek In-chun formed this creative group according to the idolatry theory that "since Kim Il-song is so great, it is impossible to portray him using the strength of only one person."

Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's confidence in Paek In-chun has a long history. During the collection of the "Unghyang" poems in Wonsan in 1946, Paek In-chun went all out and sided with Kim Il-song, standing in the forefront to eliminate pure poets such as Ku Sang. The Kim Il-song faction intentionally found fault with the "Unghyang" poems in order to securely bring literature and arts into the party. Through this incident, Paek In-chun received praise from Kim Il-song, who said Paek is "Korea's (Miyakovskiy)" (a revolutionary poet of the old Soviet Union).

The driving force making Paek what he is today is that he personally wrote many works praising Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il. Paek In-chun made his debut in the literary world as a critic; soon he was publishing works praising Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il from all genres such as poems, scenarios, and lyrics. His works include the poems "Great Hand" and "Story Flowing on the Taedong River," and the scenarios "Family of Choe Hak-sin" and "On the Road to Growth."

Another strong background that makes him exercise power as a leading figure in North Korea's literary circles is that he created five main revolutionary operas, putting Kim Chong-il's name in the forefront, which North Korea is proud of. Kim Chong-il is propagandized as a "genius" through these revolutionary operas. They are "Sea of Blood," "Flower Girl," "Talk Thick Forests," "Song of Mt. Kumgang," and "True Daughter of the Party." These works are assessed as establishing an ideological basis for Kim Chong-il's succession of power.

He also created movies in the 1980's praising Kim Il-song. These include the 10-part film "Korea's Star" and the five-part film "Sun of the Nation." Thus, he obtained even more confidence from Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, and as a result of this recognition was appointed as vice chairman of the SPA in May 1990, which is regarded as a difficult position for a cultural artist to occupy.

Currently, Paek In-chun is advanced in years; however, it is felt he will be in charge of North Korea's literary circles as a proxy of Kim Chong-il throughout the Kim Chong-il era.

Paek Hak-nim, minister of public security of the Administration Council; messenger for Kim Il-song's guerrilla unit

Paek Hak-nim is a member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee, minister of public security of the Administration Council, and vice marshal of the KPA.

Paek was born in Manchuria in 1918 and became a Security Bureau company commander right after the People's Army was founded in 1948 because he had served as a messenger for Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrilla unit. He participated in the Korean war as a regimental commander of the 5th Division. After the cease-fire, he became the commander of the 5th Division, and was appointed member of the Military Armistice Commission in 1960.

He was appointed candidate member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee at the Fourth WPK Congress in May 1961, and in September 1961, he was selected as senior adjutant and security director of the Administration Council secretariat in charge of Kim Il-song's personal safety and followed Kim like a shadow. In 1962, he was transferred to the directorship of the Ministry of National Defense Political Security Bureau, the predecessor of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces. In March 1970, he was promoted to a lieutenant general and became the first vice minister of the Ministry of Public Security [sahoeanjonsong], the predecessor of the Ministry of Public Security [sahoeanjonbu]. Later in the same year, he was appointed a member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee at the Fifth WPK Congress.

Paek was appointed vice minister of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces in 1978, and was also appointed WPK Politburo member and member of the Military Commission at the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980, along with influential men belonging to the first generation of the revolution, entering the core group of power. Right after his promotion to a colonel general in 1981, he visited African countries, including Rwanda and Tanzania, as the head of a military delegation.

He was promoted to a general in May 1985, and was appointed minister of public security in October 1985. He was also appointed a member of the National Defense Commission in 1990, and was promoted to vice marshal in 1992 when Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u were promoted to marshals.

Paek visited Bulgaria, Albania, and China as the head of a North Korean trade delegation, and until the early 1980's, he was very busy exploring foreign trade markets, visiting communist countries in East Europe and Asian and African countries on over 10 occasions.

He was appointed vice chairman of the DPRK International Trade Promotion Committee [DITPC] in January 1982, chairman of the Korean Association for the Promotion of Asian Trade in 1985 (this is his current position), and DITPC chairman in 1986. Since he participated in five rounds of South-North economic talks that began in 1984, Paek has become familiar to South Koreans.

He was appointed member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee at the third session of the Ninth SPA held in April 1991. When Yi Song-tae was appointed chairman of the External Economy Committee in 1992, passing over Paek who had become vice director of the Trade Ministry before Yi's appointment to the same position, Paek was appointed vice chairman of the committee and still holds this position. It was learned that around that time, North Korea merged the Ministry of External Economic Affairs and the Trade Ministry into the External Economy Committee, centralizing various offices of the Administration Council in charge of external economic affairs.

Song Ho-kyong, director of the Disarmament and Peace Institute; one of a few disarmament experts in North Korea

Song Ho-kyong is vice director of the WPK International Department and director of the Disarmament and Peace Institute.

Song was born in 1940 and studied at Kim Il-song University. He worked for the WPK International Department, a mandatory course for a North Korean diplomat, for 10 years after he graduated from the university. Then, as vice chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea and of the Teachers' Union, he had indirect diplomatic classes for about two years by participating in international meetings in East European countries, such as East Germany, Hungary, and Rumania; as well as in Central and South American countries, such as Mexico and Ecuador.

Song began his life as a diplomat upon his appointment as counselor of the DPRK Embassy in Yugoslavia in 1977. He was appointed counselor of the North Korean Trade Mission in France in 1979; North Korean representative to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome in 1981; and vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Association of Korea in 1985 (till now).

As one of a few North Korean disarmament experts, including Vice Foreign Minister Choe U-chin, Song has frequently participated in international meetings on arms reduction since the late 1980's and has explained North Korea's position, carrying out diplomatic activities through nonofficial channels with Western countries.

In late August 1994 when North Korea's political situation was unclear due to Kim Il-song's death, he visited China as a government envoy and met with Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in succession—reconfirming the traditional alliance between North Korea and China—and asked China to support the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty. Complying with his request, China withdrew its representative from the Military Armistice Commission.

Song is likely to be appointed delegate to negotiations with the United States on the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty, if negotiations are held between the two countries.

An Pyong-su, vice chairman of the CPRF; an expert "functionary responsible for affairs related to the South," and who has a stinging tongue

He is a vice chairman of the CPRF and a member of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee. He is familiar to us because he has been a delegate of the North side to South-North talks since the 1970's. He was born in 1930 and graduated from Kim Il-song University. His career until the 1960's is not known.

In 1973, he participated, as an entourage member of the North side, in the first through ninth round of the vice chairmen's talks of the South-North coordination committee, which were held in Panmunjom. Afterwards, he attended the second round of the South-North Christians talks in 1982 (Helsinki); the third round of the talks between the compatriots in North Korea and overseas for the fatherland's reunification in 1984; and the first through eighth rounds of the South-North high-level talks from 1990 to 1992.

He became a section chief of the CPRF, a vanguard reunification organization related to the South, in 1982, when he made his debut as "an expert functionary well versed in dialogue." In September 1988, he become director of the CPRF Secretariat, and was promoted to vice chairman of the CPRF after the second round (October) of the South-North high-level talks concluded at the end of 1990.

As a spokesman of the North side for the high-level talks, he frequently appeared in our media. At news conferences, he controlled his facial expressions and, sometimes, denounced our side by making remarks close to vituperation. He has been known as the man who is totally responsible for making various kinds of theories and suggestions related to the South, including those about the concrete wall and the pan-national rally, as well as strategies for South-North dialogue.

Yang Hyong-sop, SPA chairman, the first-ranking person in the ideological and theoretical field

Yang Hyong-sop is a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, chairman of the SPA and of the SPA Standing Committee, and director of the Kim Il-song Correspondence College.

He was born in Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, in October 1925. Along with Kim Yong-chu, he studied in the Soviet Union. He served as dean of educational affairs at the University of National Economics in 1954. He won recognition for his ability in the ideological field when he was appointed in 1961 to be principal of the WPK Central Party School, which is in charge of conducting ideological education for party cadres. In December 1967, he was appointed minister of higher education. He has worked mainly as an ideologist and theoretician disseminating and indoctrinating Kim Il-song's unitary ideology.

He jumped to the top of the power hierarchy at the Fifth WPK Congress in November 1970 when he was appointed a candidate member of the WPK Political Committee and secretary for ideological affairs. He has quickly risen inside the WPK because he is a son-in-law of a sister of Kim Il-song's father, and because he has reportedly been actively buttressed by Kim Yong-chu, then No. 2 man in the power hierarchy.

However, with the emergence of Kim Chong-il, Kim Yong-chu's influence waned. Yang has remained in the top of the power hierarchy as a result of his consolidating his base in the WPK and the power organ, and because he played a major role in the process of solidifying the foundation of the Kim Chong-il system.

In May 1974, right after Kim Chong-il emerged as the successor, Yang was elected a member of the WPK Political Committee. He was appointed chairman of the State Inspection Commission, the commission which had been restored to life, in September 1975. In January 1980, he left the WPK and became president of the Academy of Social Sciences. Since April 1983, when the Seventh SPA was convened, he has served as SPA chairman (concurrently chairman of the SPA Standing Committee) for three consecutive terms.

In the latter half of the 1970's, he was driven out of the membership of the WPK Political Committee, but returned as a candidate member of the WPK Political Bureau at the 21st plenary meeting of the Sixth WPK Central Committee held in December 1983.

Leading both party delegations in the 1970's and SPA delegations in the 1980's, Yang carried out wide-ranging external activities, attending international conferences and touring various countries as part of his diplomatic activities. Thus, he is reputed to be more internationally minded than diplomatic bureaucrats.

Yang is estimated to be the first-ranking man in the ideological and theoretical field who ideologically and theoretically backed up the establishment of the Kim Il-song unitary ideological system as well as the purging and elimination of anti-Kim Il-song forces. At the same time, he participated in the work begun in the mid-1970's to idolize Kim Chong-il. Along with Hwang Chang-yop, Yang has taken the lead in changing Kim Chong-il's past; his career in altering the past suits Kim's image as a power successor.

Yang has a broad forehead and stands about six feet tall. He is known to be excellent in creating theories; to be a bright and clearheaded man; and to have a well-rounded character. He is a son-in-law of an elder sister of Kim Il-song's father. Yang is also known to have married his wife, Kim Sin-suk, while studying in the Soviet Union.

Yon Hyong-muk, responsible secretary of the Chagang Provincial Party Committee; the only North Korean to visit Chongwadae

Yon Hyong-muk is candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, responsible secretary of the Chagang Provincial Party Committee, and chairman of the Chagang Provincial People's Committee.

While premier of the Administration Council, Yon visited Seoul as many as four times as head of the North Korean delegation to the South-North high-level talks. Yon Hyong-muk, Premier Kang Song-san, and former Premier Yi Kun-mo, who was also responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee, were called the troika in charge of North Korea's economy.

Yon was born in North Hamgyong Province in 1928. He graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and studied at the Praha College of Engineering in Czechoslovakia. He began his party life in 1960 when he became an instructor at the WPK Heavy Industry Department. He worked for the Heavy Industry Department during the 1960's. In December 1971, he was appointed a member of the WPK Central Committee as well as secretary in charge of industries. Besides being appointed to these positions, he was also appointed chairman of the Heavy Industry Department the following year, thus strengthening his status as a heavy industrial expert.

He was appointed a member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee in December 1974, thus entering the core group of power, and was reappointed a Politburo member and a secretary of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980. In November 1985, Yon was appointed first vice premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the Commission for the Metal and Machine Industry, and was again appointed a WPK secretary in December 1986.

During this period, he visited the PRC, accompanying Kim Il-song (1983); visited East Europe (1984); and visited East Germany, leading a North Korean Government delegation. He made efforts to find a way to solve North Korea's economic problems, which had become more serious since the beginning of the 1980's.

When Premier Yi Kun-mo was abruptly dismissed due to illness in December 1988, Yon succeeded him and led the Third Seven-Year Plan (1983-1993) [as published]. However, in December 1992, one year before the plan ended, Yon was replaced by Kang Song-san. At the same time, he stepped down as a WPK Politburo member.

After being dismissed as premier, Yon was appointed responsible secretary of the Chagang Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee, filling the vacancy left by the death of Yi Pong-kil in November 1993, who had been appointed chairman of the WPK Inspection Committee when Yon was dismissed as premier.

While premier, Yon led the North Korean delegation to the South-North high-level talks held over eight rounds beginning in 1990, and contributed to reaching the historic South-North basic agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization. He is the only North

Korean premier to officially visit Chongwadae [presidential offices] to meet the ROK president.

O Kuk-yol, director of the WPK Operations Department and a next-generation military leader

In April 1992, North Korea's military conducted the largest-ever personnel reshuffle since its founding. As many as 664 general-grade officers were promoted: one vice marshal was promoted to marshal; eight full generals were promoted to vice marshals; 16 colonel generals were promoted to full generals; 96 lieutenant generals were promoted to colonel generals; and 524 senior colonels were promoted to major generals.

This personnel reshuffle was conducted four months after Kim Chong-il was elected KPA supreme commander. This meant that the first-generation elders of the revolution, led by O Chin-u, have virtually stepped down. In other words, this was a restructuring of the military.

Military elders such as O Chin-u and Choe Kwang were promoted to higher ranks while retaining the titles of minister of the People's Armed Forces and chief of the General Staff of the KPA, respectively. However, the really influential posts were filled by Kim Chong-il's men. They are Cho Myong-nok, commander of the Air Force; Kim Il-chol, commander of the Navy; Yi Pyong-uk, vice minister of the People's Armed Forces; and Yi Pong-won, vice director of the KPA's General Political Bureau.

Because O Kuk-yol was deeply involved in the personnel reshuffle and has the backing and special trust of Kim Chong-il, the personnel reshuffle is interpreted as signifying the reemergence of O Kuk-yol, who had once been cast aside from the main stream of North Korea's military. In other words, through this personnel shakeup, O Kuk-yol himself confirmed that he is still doing well in his post. Having emerged as a man with a solid influence, he is rumored to be the most probable candidate to be the next minister of the People's Armed Forces.

Kim Chong-il has placed his trust in O Kuk-yol for various reasons. Although they are not of the same age, Kim Chong-il and O Kuk-yol were classmates at the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, which North Korea established in early 1947 to inherit the revolutionary lineage; O Kuk-yol was also in the vanguard of eliminating anti-Kim Chong-il forces from the military. Typical of such an example is the incident in the mid-1970's in which O Chin-u and O Kuk-yol, who was then commander of the Air Force, ousted Yi Yong-mu, then director of the KPA General Political Bureau, and Yim Chol, then director of the KPA Operations Bureau, by branding them "anti-party, anti-revolutionary elements."

He also came to Kim Chong-il's favor because he is a military elite who has acquired modern military scientific and technological knowledge by studying at Kim Il-song University and at the former Soviet Union's Air Force College. Thanks to such background, he became commander of the Air Force at the age of 39 in 1968, and was promoted as chief of the General Staff of the KPA at the age of 50 in 1979. In 1985, O was promoted to full general and appointed a member of the WPK Political Bureau, thus consolidating his position as Kim Chong-il's proxy in the military.

However, in February 1988, as a result of friction with O Chin-u, O Kuk-yol had to resign as chief of the General Staff after ten years of service. At that time, O Chin-u sent O Kuk-yol, who had shown little respect to O Chin-u, to the Kim Il-song Higher Party School in January 1988, and worked out and submitted to Kim Il-song a secret report containing O Kuk-yol's irregularities.

O Kuk-yol thus faced the largest crisis of his life. With the help of Kim Chong-il, he succeeded in coming to life again in May 1991, and became director of the WPK Operations Department, playing a leading role in the military personnel shakeup.

O Kuk-yol is reputed by North Korean military figures to "be a commanding officer who is neat and tidy in character and behavior, and has a careful planning ability and a propulsive force to push ahead with what should be done."

O Mi-ran, movie actress; the best actress picked out by Kim Chong-il

Currently, O Mi-ran is a movie actress who has gained the greatest popularity, with no room for objection.

In 1987 she played the heroine Chin Song-nim in "The Broad Bellflower," and was awarded the best actress prize at the first Pyongyang Film Festival, thus emerging as a leading star. Until the early 1990's, she appeared in the films "Fate of Many Twists and Turns" and "Traces of Life." This year she is 39. O made her debut in 1979; her first film in which she played the leading role was "The Cannon Salute Is Being Fired."

This movie, released in the early 1980's, was a decisive film in making O Mi-ran, who until then had spent her days as a nameless actress without hope, into a leading star. After Kim Chong-il saw this film, she appeared in various movies.

The magazine CHOSON FILM, published in Pyongyang, wrote the following, borrowing remarks by a movie critic:

"...O Mi-ran is gaining popularity at home as well as abroad due to her diverse emotional world and unique interpretation of the roles she plays. The old memory of 15 years ago, when I met her while she was at the mercy of fate, comes back to mind. At that time, I met a girl who was at a loss. She was a guest, but avoided people because she was very disappointed in her disposition as an actress.... Only the dear comrade leader liked her simple and sincere performance; he unfolded her wings of hope, like discovering a jewel in a muddy place."

Only Kim Chong-il recognized her talent, which no one else recognized. He picked her out and made her a leading star.

Since then, O Mi-ran has appeared in the films "Morning Star," "Memoirs of a War Correspondent," and "Birth of a New Regime," always playing the leading roles. She thus embarked on the road of popularity, though personally she experienced the sadness of breaking up with her boyfriend.

Her acting skill is assessed as "elegant and possessing individuality." Recently, she appeared as the heroine Hong Yong-cha in the sixth to the 10th parts of the film "Nation and Fate." According to the film, Hong Yong-cha is a secret agent of an ROK intelligence agency secretly dispatched to win Choe Hong-hui, who defected to Canada during the Third Republic, over to her side. Hong Yong-cha is portrayed as a tragic woman who ultimately defects to North Korea after becoming disgusted with the Yusin system.

Through the roles of Hong Yong-cha and of So Chin-chu in "Traces of Life," O Mi-ran generated a great sensation among North Korea's youth, to the point of it being called the "O Mi-ran syndrome." Currently, she is officially recognized as an actress representing North Korea.

She was married in 1982 to an artist; they have one son who is nine years old. They live in an apartment in Sochon-tong, Sosong District, Pyongyang. O Mi-ran's family is famous for acting. Her father O Hyang-mun is a people's actor, and her younger sister O Kum-ran and sister-in-law Choe Yong-hui are meritorious actresses.

Yun Ki-pok, vice chairman of the CPRF; held various southward- and economy-related posts

He is a member of the WPK Central Committee, chairman of the CPC Economic Policy Committee, and vice chairman of the CPRF.

He was born in North Korea in 1926 and attended school in Seoul before the national liberation in 1945. He finished Susong Elementary School in 1939 and quit Kyonggi Middle School during his fourth year. According to an unconfirmed report, Yun Ki-chong, finance minister of the North Korean Administration Council, is his sister.

After the liberation, he studied in the Soviet Union and majored in statistics. According to a report, he studied at Kim Il-song University after studying in the Soviet Union and graduated from that university majoring in statistics in the economics department. In 1953, he taught at the statistical economics department of the People's Economic College and was appointed associate professor in 1956. In August 1962, he was appointed minister of Common Education of the cabinet, and began his career as a government official.

In December 1967 he was transferred to the post of finance minister, and began to distinguish himself as an economic expert (particularly in the statistics sector). In July 1969 he was elected a member of the WPK Central Committee, and in September of the same year he was appointed chairman of the State Planning Committee. In November 1971 he was appointed director of the Department of Science and Education of the WPK. In August 1972, he visited Seoul as advisory member of the North Korean delegation to the full-dress Red Cross talks between the North and the South. In August 1973, he visited Japan as head of the Mansudae Art Troupe, which specializes in art performances idolizing Kim Il-song, thus engaging in colorful activities.

In March 1974, he was elected alternate member of the WPK Political Bureau and appointed a WPK secretary and director of the Financial Administration Department, thus entering the core area of North Korean power. At the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980, he was elected alternate member of the WPK Political Bureau and WPK secretary, thus demonstrating that he was still in a good position.

However, in June 1983, he was removed from the post of alternate member of the WPK Political Bureau, as well as from the post of party secretary and was demoted to the position of the chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee. In 1984, he was appointed vice chairman of the Economic Policy Committee under the CPC, thus securing a foothold for a comeback. In January 1990, finally, he was selected to be a party secretary again at the 17th plenary meeting of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.

In May 1990, he was elected chairman of the newly established Reunification Policy Committee at the Ninth SPA and was charged with southward operations. This personnel action led us to suspect that his WPK secretarial post is charged with southward operations. While he was charged with southward operations, the inter-Korean high-level talks were realized, and the historic North-South Basic Agreement and Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula were signed.

However, in April 1993, when inter-Koran relations fell into a stalemate in the wake of the WPK spy case in South Korea in October 1992 and the North Korean withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in March 1993, he was relieved from the WPK secretarial post and was transferred to the post of the chairman of the Economic Policy Committee of the CPC, a position that suits his original specialty. Being an economic expert who majored in statistics, he is known to be a man skilled with figures and to have an extensive knowledge in communist theories.

Yun Ki-chong, minister of finance of the Administration Council; economic expert nurtured by Kim Il-song

She is an alternate member of the WPK Central Committee and minister of finance of the Administration Council.

She was born in 1928, and graduated as one of the members of the inaugural class of Kim Il-song University. Her activities before 1980 are not known. Immediately after Kim Il-song's death, she announced on broadcast media (on 11 July 1994): "He took me—who was an obscure bobbed-haired country girl—into his bosom and brought me up to be a graduate of the inaugural class of Kim Il-song University, and then nurtured me as vice chairman of the State Pricing and Finance Committee and then as minister of finance," thereby revealing her educational experience. According to an unconfirmed report, she is sister of Yun Ki-pok, who is an economic expert and was a WPK secretary in charge of southward operations.

For 15 years since April 1980, she has been minister of finance of the Administration Council. She became an alternate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth WPK Congress held in October 1980. She served as deputy to the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth SPA. She served as chairman of the North Korean-Syrian, North Korean-Malian, and North Korean-Algerian friendship societies.

Yi Kun-mo, chief secretary of the WPK Committee of North Hamgyong Province; an expert in organizational management

He is a member of the WPK Central Committee and the chief secretary of the WPK Committee and the chairman of the People's Committee of North Hamgyong Province.

He was born in Chunghwa, South Pyongan Province, in 1924 (or in 1921, as some other information indicates). He dropped out of Pyongyang Sungsil University. He graduated from Kim Il-song University after liberation. He reportedly majored in mechanical engineering in Leningrad University in the Soviet Union.

He began to work at the WPK in 1952 as chief of a section of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department. His talent was recognized when he was promoted to deputy chief of the Organization and Guidance Department in 1958. He was elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fourth WPK Congress in 1961. Just like Kim Yong-chu, Kim Il-song's blood brother and chief of the Organization and Guidance Department, he showed special talent in organizational management, until he was transferred to the post of the second vice minister of mechanical engineering, who is in charge of the munitions industry.

At the Fifth WPK Congress in 1970, he was elected as member of the WPK Central Committee and promoted to the 16th in the party hierarchy for his contribution to the munitions industry. In 1971, he was elected as candidate member of the Political Bureau and appointed as chief secretary of the WPK Committee of South Pyongan Province. And, he was elected as member of the Central People's Committee in 1972. He was elected as member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau in September 1973 and appointed as vice premier of the Administration Council. As a result, he emerged as an influential insider in the power circles both in name and reality. He was demoted to candidate member of the Political Bureau at the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980 and drank a bitter cup in politics for the first time. He was appointed as chief secretary of the Nampo City WPK Committee in 1981. He was elected as secretary of the WPK Central Committee in February 1986.

He was elected as member of the Political Bureau in December 1986 and replaced Kang Song-san as premier of the Administration Council. This was a measure to use him, who has a strong capability to get jobs done and has knowledge on science and technology, in successfully carrying out the Third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993).

He abruptly resigned in December 1988 because of illness. He reportedly was held in check while making bold reforms and was fired when he openly criticized the North Korean establishment.

He was not seen in public for almost four years after he was dismissed as premier. It was confirmed in December 1992 that he was appointed as chief secretary of the WPK Committee and chairman of the People's Committee of North Hamgyong Province, replacing Kang Song-san, who was then appointed as premier of the Administration Council. It is believed that he was appointed to the post considering the importance of the Najin-Sonbong free trade region.

He is tall and has a chubby face. He is hot-tempered and is good at organizing and commanding.

Yi Pong-won, vice director of the General Political Bureau of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces; "an indispensable man" in the military's Political Bureau

Yi Pong-won is a member of the WPK Central Committee; member of the WPK Central Military Commission; vice director of the General Political Bureau of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces; and a general of the People's Army.

He is the first-term graduate of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. Along with General O Kuk-yol, he is Kim Chong-il's closest aide and confidant within the military. Since he took his first step as instructor of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department, he did not serve in the field operations part in the military, but mainly served in the Political Bureau Committee. The military Political Bureau notifies the military of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department's "party guidance" and is in charge of once again reporting to the party the overall military trend and party work in the military.

While he was a responsible instructor of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department, he was in charge of the South Hamgyong provincial party committee. At that time, he tracked down on a large scale the remaining forces of the Yonan faction and the South Korean Workers Party. Therefore, on the grounds that he rendered distinguished services in establishing the Kim Il-song monolithic ruling system, he started to gain confidence. In 1975, he was promoted to vice admiral and appointed as a political commissar of the Navy Headquarters, and in October 1980, he was selected as a member of the Central Committee and member of the Central Military Commission at the Sixth session of the WPK. Later, he was also appointed as vice director in charge of military affairs in the Organization and Guidance Department.

In April 1985, he was promoted to senior vice admiral and from December 1986, he has been serving as vice director of the military General Political Bureau. In April 1992, he was promoted to general, when 600 general grade officers were promoted upon orders by Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il.

Viewing from the fact that O Chin-u, director of the General Political Bureau and minister of the People's Armed Forces, is advanced in age and is unable to carry out his work—to the extent that he had to go to France to be treated for his disease—Yi is a figure who is being pointed out as the most likely candidate for next director of the General Political Bureau.

Yi Song-tae, chairman of the External Economy Committee of the Administration Council; member of the troika leading North Korea's opening

Yi Song-tae is a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the External Economy Committee of the Administration Council.

He was born in Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province in 1943. His academic career is not well known. He entered the external economic sector in March 1980 as an instructor for a food company. Since his first visit to Japan in the same year, he visited Japan two more times up until 1982 to conduct economic inspections and trade business, thus emerging as an expert on external economic affairs.

Later, he participated in secret external economic projects as a member of the working-level team for those projects, and came to be known to foreign countries as he was appointed vice trade minister in 1987.

As Kim Tal-hyon, an influential person insisting on North Korea's opening, was appointed trade minister in 1988, Yi began to give full play to his ability. Because he has been engaged external economic cooperation and trade dealings under his supervisor Kim Tal-hyon for almost four years, he is considered to belong to the group of Kim's men.

Yi accompanied Kim Tal-hyon when the latter visited Seoul in July 1992 for discussions on South-North economic cooperation, and succeeded Kim to his post as chairman of the External Economy Committee in December of that year. At the same time, he was elected candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, thus entering the core group of power, passing over his senior Yi Song-nok, who is about 10 years older than Yi Song-tae.

Yi Song-tae, along with Kim Chong-u and Yi Song-nok, is considered as a member of the troika that will lead North Korea's external economy, following Kim Tal-hyon.

Yi Song-nok, vice chairman of the External Economy Committee of the Administration Council; a noticeable economic expert who is chairman of the Koryo National Industrial Development Council

Yi Song-nok is vice chairman of the External Economy Committee of the Administration Council; vice chairman of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee; chairman of the DPRK International Trade Promotion Committee; chairman of the Koryo National Industrial Development Council and the Korean Association for the Promotion of Asian Trade; and vice chairman of the Korea-Japan Friendship Association. As shown above, he is practically engaged in external economic affairs, being in charge of most of North Korea's external economic organizations.

Yi is the most noticeable figure among North Korean officials in charge of South-North economic cooperation because he is chairman of the Koryo National Industrial Development Council, a channel for South-North economic cooperation that ROK civilian enterprises can approach. This council, as well as the Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation headed by Kim Chong-u, is a working-level channel for North Korea's external economic cooperation; as its name indicates, it focuses on South-North economic cooperation.

When he visited Beijing in September 1994, Yi Song-nok contacted an official of the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation, delivering invitations to Beijing-based representatives of ROK companies, including Hyundai and Hyosong Groups. He stated: "If the South allows, I will visit Seoul to introduce North Korea's investment environment." Thus, he showed a very active attitude toward inducing South Korean investment in North Korea.

Yi was born in Yanggang Province in March 1934. After graduating from the University of National Economy in 1958, he became an instructor at the Chagang Provincial Economic Committee. When he was appointed director of a department of the Trade Ministry in 1963, he came onto center stage.

He was appointed vice trade minister in 1978, 20 years after he began government life. Since then, he has given full play to his ability as a person in charge of external economic affairs. He was elected a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth WPK Congress held in 1970. Being appointed vice premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the State Planning Commission in 1973, he was faced with the task of mapping out a master plan for North Korea's impoverished economy. Later, he was appointed chairman of the State Planning Commission as often as four times because of his broad knowledge of science and technology, his tenacious attitude toward his job, and his reputation for being good with numbers.

He was dismissed as vice premier in 1975, and as chairman of the State Planning Commission in 1977. Despite advertised expectations of an early fulfillment of the plan, it seems he was dismissed, not because of the failure of the Six-Year Plan (1971-1976)—which began while he was chairman of the State Planning Commission—but because the North Korean leadership demanded a new team for the Second Seven-Year Plan beginning in 1978.

Yi Song-nok was elected a member of the party Central Committee at the Sixth WPK Congress held in 1980, and was elected a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee in 1982. However, his name was eliminated from the list of candidate Politburo members in 1984 when he was designated as first vice chairman of the State Planning Commission. He was again appointed chairman of the State Planning Commission in February 1986, and participated in mapping out the Third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993). At the same time, he was again elected a candidate member of the Politburo of the WPK Central Committee.

Yi was elected a Politburo member of party Central Committee in October 1986, and was appointed first vice premier in late December that year. In October 1987, when North Korea eliminated the position of first vice premier, he was appointed vice premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission. Although Kim Tal-hyon took his post of chairman of the State Planning Commission for a short period from February to June 1988, Yi regained the post in June 1988 and maintained the title until May 1990. He was downgraded from WPK Politburo member to candidate member in 1989, but still remains as vice premier of the Administration Council.

Yi Won-in, embroiderer; she made a name for herself through the "national treasure level" works

Yi Won-in is an embroiderer who ranks first in North Korea.

Embroidery is one of North Korea's important export products. Not only are many of Yi Won-in's works at a "national treasure level" but she also received prizes at international art exhibitions and her works are popular among foreigners.

When summarizing North Korea's magazine CHOSON ART, the characteristics of her work lie in the fact that they are of realistic description using subject matters such as the beauty of nature. Her main works include "Tiger," "Fairy," "White Pigeon," and "Peace."

She started embroidery work when she accidentally went to an embroidery shop in 1954, one year after the end of the Korean war. After attending the "Korean short-term education painting course," she came to be in charge of a high quality embroidery shop, and in 1959, she won first prize at the seventh World Youth, Student Art Festival held in Vienna, Austria. Thus, she started to stand out above others on a full scale.

In April 1962, she was awarded the title of meritorious artist and in 1965, she won the first prize at the State Art Festival. In 1984, she received the title of people's artist, and published a book entitled, "TECHNIQUES OF PAINTINGS AND EMBROIDERY."

Yi Won-in is over 70 years old now but she is carrying out vigorous activities while being affiliated to the embroidery department of the Masudae Art Studio.

It was learned that other than the fact that her works are outstanding, another reason that she is being regarded as the greatest embroiderer in North Korea is that her family origin is what the communists regard as from a "basic class."

She lived in a hut at the seaside of Wonsan, Kangwon Province. Her father was a fisherman and her mother helped the family by doing needlework. She was highly assessed by the fact that she never received regular school education.

She is 72 years old, born in 1920. Her works including "(High Viscose)," and "Silk Tree and (Hutudi)" do not have a realistic inclination. These are included in North Korea's foreign propaganda cultural program.

Yi Chong-ok, state vice president; he is an expert in economic affairs and has advanced to the core of power

Yi Chong-ok is a member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; state vice president; and member of the CPC.

He was born in 1916 at Songjin (currently Kim Chaek city), North Hamgyong Province. After graduating from the Harbin Industrial University in Manchuria in 1940, he joined the communist movement. Before liberation he formed an organization called the "Chokusa" in his hometown and carried out underground activities, but right after liberation, he did not particularly distinguish himself. In 1946, he taught at the Songjin Paeyong Middle School, and in 1948, he became a manager at the Chongjin textile plant.

In October 1949, he advanced into the central arena by becoming director of the Industrial Ministry of the cabinet. In 1950, he became vice minister of the Industrial Ministry; in December 1951, he became minister of the Light Industry; and in January 1956, he became director of the Industrial Department of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the State Planning

Committee of the cabinet. Thus, he started to distinguish himself as an expert in economic affairs.

In April 1956, he was elected as a member of the Central Committee at the Third Congress of the WPK, and in June, he accompanied Kim Il-song in his visit to the Soviet Union and East European countries. From May 1958, he visited Moscow and Beijing for three months to take part in the meeting on exchanging goods, and requested these countries for economic assistance such as foodstuffs. In particular, he is an expert in the heavy industry sector in the economic field. He greatly contributed to obtaining economic assistance from the Soviet Union and China. He participated in almost all large-scale events such as the Communist Party congress that took place in these two countries.

In July 1959, he was appointed vice chairman in charge of heavy industries of the WPK Central Committee; in January 1960, he became vice premier of the cabinet; in September 1961, he became a member of the Political Bureau of the WPK (ranking 11th in the hierarchy of power); in August 1962, he was in charge of the Metal and Chemical Industrial Ministry; and in October 1965, he transferred to the post of president of the Academy of Sciences.

In 1967, he once again became vice premier in charge of economic affairs of the cabinet. He was in charge of putting the finishing touches to the Seven-Year plan (1961-67) which was extended to three more years because its goal was not fulfilled. During six years, starting in 1971, he received recognition in his ability as minister of Mining (1971) and chairman of the Heavy Industry Committee (1972). As a result, he became vice premier in 1976 and in December 1977, he became premier and appeared as the one responsible for carrying out the second Seven-Year plan (1978-84)

At the Sixth Congress of the WPK in October 1980, he was elected as member of the Political Bureau. Along with Kim Il-song, Kim Il, O Chin-u, and Kim Chong-il, he became a member of the newly established Political Bureau Presidium of the Central Committee, thus occupying a firm place in the core section of power.

In July 1983, he was excluded as a member of the Political Bureau Presidium but he remained as a member of the Political Bureau, thus remaining as a premier with real power. In January 1984, one year before the end of the second Seven-Year plan, he handed over the premier post to Kang Song-san and was promoted to vice president.

From the very first to the ninth time, he was elected as a deputy of the SPA without fail. Along with this, he was also chairman of the Committee to Award Academic Degree and Professorship. He is a representative figure who rose to the core of power as an expert in economic affairs even though he was not from the anti-Japanese guerrilla group. It has been learned that he is very stubborn and has a self-righteous character. He has a round face and a short neck.

With the emergence of the Kim Il-song era [as published], there is a possibility that he may retire along with Pak Song-chol and only remain as a symbolic figure. Currently, there is a rare possibility, but if Kim Chong-il assumes only the post of party general secretary and entrusts the post of state president to another figure, Yi Chong-ok is rising as a strong candidate for the post along with Kim Yong-chu.

Yi Chun-ku, who received the title of the "Kim Il-song Prize Winner"

He is a skillful author who is very influential in North Korea's literary film circles, including the area of screenplays. In particular, he achieved a rapid recognition in the literary area during the eighties. His masterpiece is "Bellflower" published in 1987. Thanks to this work, he received prizes such as "The Best Work Prize" and "The Actress Prize" (O Mi-nan) during the first Nonaligned Film Festival held in Pyongyang. Following this, he presented the slogan "one's love for one's hometown equals to one's love for one's fatherland," which has been the main component in North Korean film circles until the early nineties. In addition to this, he has several successful works, including "Traces of Life," "Hearts of Youth," "Responsible Secretary of County Party," and "Guarantee."

The "Traces of Life" published in 1989 has enabled Yi Chun-ku to receive the first Double Labor Heroic Title as a literacy man in North Korea. This work was regarded as the most successful work in North Korean films produced that year. Also, his work "Bellflower" enabled him to receive a "Kim Il-song Prize Winner."

Kim Chong-il praises him, saying: "He is an author, who always and sharply grasps and writes the problems the party is concerned about, as well as the problems the party tries to solve."

Yi Chun-ku, who was born in 1942, began his literary career as a novelist, but failed to attract the people's close attention. Therefore, he has embarked upon the road as a screenplay writer since the early eighties.

Yim Sa-chun, potter, from an odd-job man to the best artist

He and U Chi-son are called the best potters in North Korea.

"Wild Geese Over the Reed Vase," "Wood Wind Decorated Vase," "Magnificent Decoration Vase," "Large Pine and Crane Vase," and "Black Flower Decorated Vase" are famous among some 600 works.

Before the liberation, when he was 13, he worked at a pottery plant in his hometown of Nampo doing odd jobs. That was the beginning of his career as a potter. When he was discharged from the military service in 1955, he began concentrating on pottery.

He never abandoned pottery for the next 40 years. His works are praised as being "always admired by colleagues for their unique motif."

Particularly, the "Large Pine and Crane Vase" (110 cm high and 60 cm wide) is his masterpiece praised as being "astonishing with the symbolic expression of longevity through an old pine, a deer, a pheasant, and a bamboo being so fantastic and majestic."

Yim Sa-chun has three sons and a daughter who all work with him. The 38-year-old eldest son, Yim Kyong-ik, has already proven his talent through "I Am a Crane" and "Saucer," which are on permanent display at the Korean Art Gallery. The second son, Yim Kun-ik, is known to be "thoughtful and calm," and the third son "creative and technical."

Meantime, U Chi-son is called the living witness of North Korean pottery.

The 75-year-old U was born in Sangwon County in Pyongyang. At the age of 13, he worked as a handyman with his father who worked at a pottery plant. That was how he began his career as a potter.

U Chi-son has a particular interest in Koryo Dynasty porcelains and traveled to Sariwon, Nampo, and Seoul to conduct research. After the establishment of the North Korean regime, he worked as a technical instructor, manager, and plant manager. He has worked at the Mansudae Creative House since 1981.

He was invited to "The Exhibition of Two Contemporary Artists of Koryo-dynasty Porcelains" held in Japan in November 1983 and "The Exhibition of Masterpieces of Modern Koryo Dynasty Porcelains" also held in Japan 1989.

He is currently not as active in creative work due to his age but is concentrating on training. He has some tens of followers, including his sons and daughters.

Chang Song-u, the closest military man to Kim Chong-il, director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Public Security

Member of the WPK Central Committee, director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Public Security, and KPA general.

Along with O Kuk-yol and Yi Pong-won, he is one of the three closest figures to Kim Chong-il in the military. He is said to be brother of Chang Song-taek, director of the WPK Three Revolutions Teams Department and the man with the best prospects to emerge as the actual power in the Kim Chong-il era. His past record is only available after 1980. This is because people only began to notice him after 1980, when Kim Chong-il officially came into power as the successor, and because the profiles of the Public Security Ministry officials are rarely available to the public.

In the Sixth party congress of the WPK held in 1980, he was elected member of the Central Committee. Since the Seventh SPA in 1982 until the current Ninth SPA, he has been successively elected a deputy. He was promoted to KPA lieutenant general in 1984 and general in April 1992.

Presently, the director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Public Security, he is a fast emerging figure of the Kim Chong-il era as his name is being mentioned as the next minister of public security after Paek Hakyim retires.

Chang Song-taek, from behind-the-scene actual power to number-two man, director of the Youth and Three Revolutions Teams Department of the WPK

Kim Chong-il's aides gather around the WPK Central Committee. They lead the North Korea regime on behalf of Kim Chong-il as the Central Committee takes control of all state organizations and social groups. Those who have the title of director of party departments are the core members who control the North Korean society with their respective string with Kim Chong-il. Chang Song- taek is typical among them.

In North Korea, particularly among the high-ranking officials of the party, administration, and military, the name Chang Song-taek has a special meaning. The name means "Kim Chong-il's other self" and even the successor in case Kim Chong-il suffers from any mishap.

Kim Chong-il's trust in Chang Song-taek is reflected by the fact that he is in charge of three of the 22 departments of the party Central Committees: the Youth Department, Working People's Organizations Department, and Three Revolutions Teams Department. Although he failed, Kim Chong-il even tried to appoint Chang as the director of State Security Department, the supreme power organization of North Korea, when Kim Il-song was alive.

Kim Chong-il's trust begins from their kinship as brother-in-laws. Chang is the husband of Kim Kyong-hui, Kim Chong-il's real blood sister.

The relationship between Kim Kyong-hui, whom Kim Chong-il dearly loves, and Chang Song-taek began from their Kim Il-song University days. Chang Song-taek entered Kim Il-song University with the help of his uncle Chang Chong-hwan. He and Kim Kyong-hui were classmates and Kim Kyong-hui was said to be more aggressive in the love affair, and more anxious to get married.

Chang Chong-hwan was once vice minister of the People's Armed Forces. He failed the power struggle against Yi Yong-mu, then director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA, and died of a heart attack in early 1980.

It was not the marriage alone that made Chang Song-taek what he is today. He has a brain that made him pass Kim Il-song Higher Party School and Kim Il-song University, the highest elite course in North Korea, and a record of outstanding performance at the military and the League of Social Working Youths of Korea.

Chang Song-taek's distinguished performance and brain stood out when the 1989 Pyongyang Festival ended as a success under his supervision when he led the Three Revolutions Teams, the power base for Kim Chong-il. When preparing the Pyongyang Festival, he displayed his talent in the construction of 1 May Gymnasium and Kwangbok Street, which are now touted as Kim Chong-il's major achievements.

Many experts on North Korean affairs believe Chang Song-taek is actually the number-two man after Kim Chong-il even though his official ranking is about 50. He is as influential and powerful as Kim Chong-il said: "You are the only one I can trust and rely on."

All North Korean officials in the party, administration and military give him due dispensation. Even Kye Ung-tae, number 10 of the leadership and the chief of intelligence, would jump up from his chair and offer Chang Song-taek the seat when he appears.

Chang Song-taek is said to have been directly and indirectly restrained by Kim Il-song when he was alive. For instance, Kim Il-song objected when Kim Chong-il recommended Chang as the director of State Security Department, saying "He is too greedy;" Kim Il-song also disapproved Kim Kyong-hui's marriage. With Kim Il-song dead and out of the scene, Chang Song-taek has emerged from a behind-the-scene actual power to the number-two man in name and reality. His role is expected to be greater in the future.

Chon Pyong-ho, secretary of the party and member of the National Defense Commission; the top military logistics expert in North Korea

Chon Pyong-ho is a member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and a member of the National Defense Commission.

He was born in 1926 as the son of a poor farmer in Musan, North Hamgyong Province. Since his father served in a unit under the command of Kim Il-song, Chon was able to attend and graduate from Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy, which only the bereaved children of revolutionaries could enter, then graduated from Kim Il-song University. He also studied at Moscow University.

Beginning with the post of responsible guide in the WPK's Department of Organization and Guidance in 1956, he worked there until transferred as director of the Department of Machine Industry and Commercial Affairs in 1971. During this period, he was involved in searching out and eliminating anti-party and anti-system elements in the course of establishing Kim Il-song's monolithic ruling system. For this, he enjoyed the deep trust of Kim Il-song.

He was elected as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth WPK Congress in 1970. Following this, he was elected a full member of the Central Committee at the sixth party congress in 1980; a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee in 1982; a party secretary in 1986; and a full member of the Political Bureau in 1988, thus rising without interruption.

He held the position of director of the Department of the Machine Industry for more than 10 years from 1971. In 1982, he was appointed chairman of the Second Economic Committee in the CPC, which leads the military logistics industry in North Korea. Since the machine industry has an indivisible relationship with the military logistics industry, he became the leading expert in the military logistics industry. With this career, he was elected as a member of the National Defense Commission in May 1990, although he was not in the military. He is presently holding the position of secretary of the WPK Central Committee in charge of military logistics, which supervises and leads the military logistics policy, and director of the Inspection Department for the policy of the military logistics industry.

Because of his advanced age, he may be regarded as unsuitable for the Kim Chong-il era. However, he is expected to maintain his present post in view there being no expert in North Korea's military logistics industry equal to him. Even if North Korea in the Kim Chong-il era pursues economic opening up, it will not weaken its military logistics sector because of the characteristic nature of its system. Based on this estimation, Chon's successful future will be insured.

Chon is tall and slim, and has a wide, round face. He is known to have an outstanding writing ability, unlike other specialists in the military logistics industry. People assume this ability is a product of his early life as a party bureaucrat in the Department of Organization and Guidance.

Cho Myong-nok, Air Force commander; has maintained post of Air Force commander for 20 years

Cho is a member of the WPK Central Committee and Central Military Commission, and a general of the People's Army (Air Force).

He is of the first generation of North Korea's Air Force, graduating from the Manchuria Aviation School prior to national liberation. He was appointed commander of the Anti-Aircraft Command in 1975 at the rank of major general, and promoted to lieutenant general in 1976. Since assuming the post of Air Force commander in November 1977, he has maintained this position for nearly 20 years. Cho was elected a member of the WPK Central Committee and of the Central Military Commission during the Sixth WPK Congress in 1980, and promoted to colonel general in 1985.

Following this, in April 1992 he was promoted to general. He is relatively fat, of average height, with high cheekbones. He is known as a man of keen judgment and few words.

Cho is regarded as the figure with a greatest possibility for ascension in the Kim Chong-il system, along with Kim Ik-chol, commander of the Navy.

Cho Chong-mi, singer and actress; the renowned star in the opera "The Sea of Blood"

North Korean performers receive many letters from their fans. O Mi-ran, Hong Yong-hui, and Cho Chong-mi are representative movie actresses who receive such pouring fan letters.

Cho Chong-mi is a singer and movie actress who was born in Fukuoka, Japan, in 1957; she is from Chongnyon. She dreamed of becoming a singer while attending Choson Senior High School under Chongnyon. In the summer of 1957, she had a chance to watch the performance "The Flower Girl" by the North Korean art troupe that visited Japan. With this as the occasion, she went to North Korea and studied at the Pyongyang Music and Dance College. Since then, she has stayed in North Korea. She graduated in 1979, and began her activities as a singer in the Pibada Opera Troupe. She played the role of the mother, the main actress in the opera "The Sea of Blood," a representative opera set in North Korea, on more than 100 occasions.

As for international activities, she won the prize in the Toulouse International Music Contest in France in October 1987, thus distinguishing herself. In October of last year, she held her own solo vocal recital in Pyongyang. A North Korean magazine article introduced the scene of the recital that day by writing: "When she began to sing the song 'I Cannot Live If I Leave Your Bosom,' the audience sang along, and their song echoed outside the recital hall. Thus, the audience sang the song amid deep emotion." The opera "I Cannot Live If I Leave Your Bosom" is the representative musical work praising Kim Chong-il.

Choe Yong-nim, vice premier and minister of the metal industry in the Administration Council; he won trust as the figure responsible for the presidential palace

Choe Yong-nim is a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau as well as vice premier and minister of the metal industry.

Born in Yanggang Province in 1929, he graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy, then studied in Moscow University after leaving the Department of Political and Economic Studies at Kim Il-song University.

He began his party life as a responsible guide in the WPK Department of Organization and Guidance in 1956. He was elected a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in 1966, and was appointed first deputy director of the Department of Organization and Guidance in 1967. Hand in hand with Chon Pyong-ho, he made decisive contributions to purging and eliminating the so-called Kapsan faction—including Pak Kum-chol, member of the WPK Political Committee, and Yi Hyo-sun, director of the General Bureau for Works toward South Korea—and to establishing Kim Il-song's monolithic ruling system.

For this, Choe was elected a full member of the Central Committee during the Fifth WPK Congress in 1970, and was appointed as director of a department in the WPK in 1972. In 1973, he was made the responsible figure for Kim Il-song's presidential palace, and in 1974 was appointed as director of the General Administration Department of the WPK, thus seizing enormous power.

Choe was elected a candidate member of the Central Committee Political Bureau during the Sixth WPK Congress in October 1980, and following this was promoted in 1982 as full member of the Political Bureau. In 1983, he was appointed vice premier of the Administration Council, thus swiftly advancing to the core of political power.

However, two years later in October 1985, he was removed from the post of vice premier and dropped from the WPK Political Bureau. Thus, the brake was applied on his career. At the time, North Korean broadcasts revealed only that "he was transferred to another position." However, he retained only the capacity of a deputy to the SPA, and did not show up at official functions for five years, until finally making a comeback as vice premier in 1990. Concerning the disappearance of this vice premier who held real power, the people made various analyses, including one that his dismissal was prompted by the failure of his economic policy, and another that he was appointed to the post in charge of the presidential palace.

However, in May 1990 he was again elected a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, vice premier of the Administration Council, and chairman of the State Planning Committee, thus coming to the surface of power on a full scale. He was released from his position as chairman of the State Planning Committee in December 1992, and was transferred as the minister of the metal industry. He has been in that position up to the present.

Choe is known to be of prudent character and calm, with a bright expression, and maintains smooth relations with others. He is also believed to have a predominant linguistic ability in Russian, Japanese, English, and the like, as well as possess much political and economic ability.

With an outstanding keen judgment and long experience as the figure in charge of the presidential palace, he provided Kim Chong-il with every detail of high-level information and intelligence occurring within the presidential palace during Kim Il-song's lifetime. Thus, he enjoys the deep trust of Kim Chong-il.

Choe Yong-hwa, the first vice chairman of the General Federation of Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea, who took the lead in idolizing Kim Chong-il in the literary and art field, is his younger brother.

Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK]; Kim Chong-il's friend who is six years younger than him

Member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the LSWYK Central Committee.

"We take an oath that we will faithfully uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership by replacing today's deepest sorrows with strength and courage, thus consummating to the end the chuche revolutionary cause which was pioneered by President Kim Il-song...." This remark was made by Choe Yong-hae, who spoke of his loyalty toward Kim Chong-il in July 1994 following Kim Il-song's death, representing 8 million North Korean youths.

Choe was born in Pyongsan County, North Hwanghae Province, in 1948. His father is Choe Hyon, Kim Il-song's colleague during the period of the anti-Japanese struggle. Even though he is six years younger than Kim Chong-il, they have been friends since childhood. Choe graduated from Kim Il-song University in 1971, and worked as a researcher there for years. In 1981, he became section chief of the LSWYK's Indoctrination Guidance Bureau. From then on, he stood at the forefront to deepen loyalty among adolescents.

In October 1981, Choe became vice chairman of the LSWYK Central Committee at the seventh meeting of the LSWYK. In 1986, he was elected chairman of the LSWYK Central Committee, and had the fortune of becoming a member of the WPK Central Committee at the age of 38. He was also elected a member of the Standing Committee of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly (1986-1990) and the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly (1990 up to present). As Kim Chong-il's friend, he has easily risen to power.

Choe visited Singapore as the head of a Pyongyang students and youths art delegation in 1981. He has also visited Japan, Greece, Libya, Algeria, the former Soviet Union, and the PRC, gaining experience in the international exchange of youth. On the basis of such experience, in Pyongyang in 1989 he successfully opened the Festival of World's Youths and Students (the 13th) for youths and students from the communist world. For the festival, Pyongyang not only built new apartments and roads, but also built large cultural centers, adding a new face to Pyongyang.

Choe Un-a, amateur Go player; rising star of North Korea's Go circle

A wizard of Go, the Cinderella of North Korea's Go circle.

Born in Hamhung on 15 August 1985, she participated in the World Women's Amateur Go Match held in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, in October 1992, and was introduced to international Go circles as "a genius who will lead future North Korean Go circles."

Choe Un-a, who was the youngest among 26 players, won eighth place by winning four games and losing three. World-renowned Japanese Go master Takemia, with a ninth grade-level in Go [there is a grading system in Go that divides players according to one's adroitness], said: "She has a bright future ahead of her since she is endowed with a clear head and natural magnanimity."

Her father is Choe Pyong-il, office worker at the Hamhung Academy of Science who was repatriated to North Korea from Japan. She was picked by Choe Chae-u, a fifth grade-level in Go, in August 1991 and received full-scale Go education from him. In less than one year, she had a third grade-level in Go.

After her match in Japan, she was admitted to Kumsong No.1 Senior High School as a special student, and had a memorial match with Kim Il-song. Currently, she is receiving Go education in the PRC; many predict she will soon become a major star in the international Go world.

The Go Association was formed in August 1989 under the direction of Kim Chong-il. Since then, Go has been widely played and promoted in North Korea. In North Korea, up and coming players in addition to Choe Un-a are Mun Yong-sam, Kim Pyong-sam, and Kim Kwang-su.

Choe Tae-pok, a secretary of the WPK Central Committee and a typical career official in the fields of administration and education

Choe Tae-pok is also a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Born in 1929 in Kilchu, North Hamgyong Province, Choe graduated from the first class of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute. Choe also graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied at Leipzig Engineering College in East Germany. He is a typical career official in the fields of administration and education.

Choe began his career at the WPK Department of Education in 1959 as a guiding personnel. Afterward, in the 1960's, he worked at schools and research organs. With his return to the post of director of the WPK Department of Education in 1972, he became a specialized official in the field of education. In 1978, he was transferred to the post of dean of Kim Chaek Engineering College, and in 1981 was appointed chairman of the Educational Committee and minister of the Ministry of Higher Education under the State Administration Council.

Choe was elected as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in 1984. He was simultaneously elected a member of the WPK Central Committee and a secretary of the party Central Committee in December 1986, stepping into the center of power.

This was the best time for his external activities. He visited Malta in February 1982, leading a DPRK government delegation; visited France in November of the same year, leading an SPA delegation; and assumed the post of chairman of the first conference of ministers of education and culture from nonaligned and developing countries, which was held in Pyongyang in September 1983.

With his visit in January 1984 to East Germany and the Soviet Union while leading a DPRK education delegation, since then Choe has made energetic external activities by visiting countries in Asia and East Europe on five occasions.

In 1985 and 1986, Choe visited a total of six countries, including the PRC, Bulgaria, Cuba, and Tanzania, leading either an education delegation or a friendship association delegation, not only contributing to promoting cooperation with foreign countries in the fields of educational and cultural, but also enhancing his diplomatic ability.

Choe was elected a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee at the 18th plenary session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee held in May 1990. Since then, he has continued holding the number two position following Kim Chol-man in the order of candidate members of the Political Bureau.

During the period from late 1993 to early 1994, Choe temporarily assumed party secretary Kim Yong-sun's post for the party's international affairs, but soon returned to the party's educational and cultural affairs. Because of the rich experience attained from his frequent visits to foreign countries, Choe has often played the role of DPRK counterpart when foreign educational and cultural delegations visit North Korea.

Choe is tall and intelligent-looking, and his character is said to be cheerful. Even after the death of Kim Il-song, Choe's position appears to remain firm and invariable as a close confidant to Kim Chong-il. He has often been seen accompanying Kim Chong-il when the latter makes inspection tours.

Tae Son-hui, North Korea's first woman pilot

North Korea's prominent women have one distinctive characteristic distinguishable from our society.

In most cases, these prominent women are created overnight for political purposes rather than by dint of their individual ability or social achievements. In other words, prominent women are often fabricated as a medium to effectively carry out the party policy. A typical example of this is Chong Chun-sil, who rose overnight to the position of "hero" from an obscure position as an office worker in a provincial area. However, Tae Son-hui is different from such fabricated prominent women, for she has qualified to be a prominent woman in her own way.

Tae Son-hui, 67, was the first woman pilot in North Korea, and participated in the Korean War as a North Korean Air Force fighter pilot. In particular, she belonged to the "Nocturnal Bombing Unit" in which even male pilots felt it hard to manage, and conducted a number of combat missions. She is said to have boasted after her first mission: "I annihilated an island where enemy radar and communications facilities were concentrated."

Because of this accomplishment, she was awarded the title "Hero of the Republic" when she was 23 years old, and was given a souvenir handgun by Kim Il-song on 1 January 1952. On 27 July 1953, when a review of troops was made "commemorating war victory," she led a fighter formation and "flew over the review site, fluttering the flag of the republic."

In 1993, she spent much time visiting and encouraging soldiers and youth who were mobilized for the construction of the "Fatherland Liberation War Victory Monument" built on Sojang Hill in Pyongyang. Her remarks on her visit to the construction site are said to have been: "This construction site has recovered my youth. Decades have passed since the Korean War, and now I am a grandmother with several children and grandchildren. However, my heart still lives in the stern days of the war. This is my faith and will, and the resolve of my children."

Han Song-yong, a secretary of the WPK Central Committee. He is known to be an expert in the missile and heavy industry sector.

Han Song-yong is a member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and a secretary of the party Central Committee. Born in North Hamgyong Province in 1923, Han had no favorable family background; however, he has become famous because of his excellent knowledge of the heavy industry sector, especially missiles and shipbuilding. In particular, he is known to have worked as a missile specialist on the Second Economic Committee, which was in charge of the war industry.

In the Fourth Cabinet in 1971, Han was appointed vice minister of the Ministry of the Second Machine Industry. In December 1972, he was appointed minister of the Ministry of the Machine Industry under the State Administration Council.

However, less than half a year after, he was transferred to the post of responsible secretary of the Hamhung WPK Committee. Following this assignment, he spent 15 years (until December 1988) as a local party or government cadre, during which time he advanced to the central arena of politics as a secretary of the party Central Committee. Such being the case, his political career has been veiled in mystery.

Han's advance toward the party Central Committee was slower than others. He was not elected a candidate member of the party Central Committee until the Sixth WPK Congress held in 1980, and was not elected a full member of the party Central Committee until December 1986. Since then, he has enjoyed advancement more rapidly than anyone else, being elected a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee in November 1988. Fifteen days later, in December 1988, he was elected a secretary of the party Central Committee. Han was then promoted to full member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee in May 1990.

The rapid promotion of Han Song-yong, the missile specialist, coincided with the acceleration of North Korea's nuclear development; this drew special attention at home and abroad.

Han has a wide range of knowledge on economics, and because of this he is known as one of the economic mainstays within the party, along with Chon Pyong-ho, a secretary of the party Central Committee.

Ho Chong, deputy chief of the North Korean mission to the United Nations; a diplomat who displayed his ability in diplomacy with the United States

Ho Chong was born in 1945. He is a strong candidate for the first representative of the North Korean liaison office to be established in Washington according to the Geneva agreement reached between North Korea and the United States in October 1994. As the deputy chief of the North Korean mission to the United Nations for the past five years, he has played the role of virtual North Korean ambassador to the United States, being completely in charge of relations with the United States, while Ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil-yon has been in charge of diplomatic affairs with the United Nations.

He is known as a nuclear expert because he has participated in nuclear negotiations with the United States since the North Korean nuclear issue was raised. In fact, however, he is a diplomat who was an interpreter. His English is excellent enough to conduct a news conference in English. Because of his fluent English and seasoned manners, he was highly assessed by the United Nations and the Western diplomatic circles.

However, his ability was not fully displayed until the summer of 1993 when he participated in working-level contacts with the United States over the nuclear issue for half a year, along with his aide Han Song-yol, an administrative counselor. At that time, he finally promoted a package solution on the nuclear issue, which North Korea had invariably insisted, in successive negotiations with the United States. This enabled him to win considerable confidence of the North Korean leadership.

Regarding the difficult negotiations situation with North Korea on the nuclear issue, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Tom Hubbard, then-chief of the U.S. delegation to the working-level contacts, stated in a speech at a U.S. university: "It was like an endless argument on a grain of wood in an unescapable small room." It is Ho Chong that made Hubbard let out such an expression.

The nuclear issue was aggravated again because of North Korea's insincere attitude toward nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, during the North Korean-U.S. talks held in Geneva in October 1994 after Kim Il-song's death, he was in charge of practical affairs, assisting First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu, then-chief of the North Korean delegation to the talks, thus making great contribution to reaching the North Korea-U.S. agreement that put an end to the almost half a century-long hostile relations between the two countries.

Ho Chong had frequent dialogues with ROK correspondents, in contrast to Ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil-yon who showed a comparatively rough attitude as a diplomat. He is assessed as being sensitive and frank because, when his mistake is pointed out, he acknowledges it and apologizes for it. As he has recently come to the fore, his background, such as academic and social career, has not been known yet.

Hyon Chun-kuk, editor in chief of NODONG SINMUN; commander of the North Korean press

Hyon is a member of the WPK Central Committee, director of a department of the party Central Committee, editor in chief of NODONG SINMUN, chairman of the Korean Journalists Union, a journalist, a diplomat, and representative of the North Korean side who is in charge of working-level problems in the South-North talks. His career is as outstanding as shown above. Although he is not in the center of power, he is assessed as being an important man, along with party Secretary Kim Ki-nam, in propagating the WPK policies because of his writing and speaking talent.

He was born in North Hamgyong Province in 1925. In 1954, after he studied in the former Soviet Union, he became a section chief of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the WPK Central Committee, stepping into the party's propaganda and agitation work. He was transferred to chief of the editorial department of NODONG SINMUN in 1956, and became an associate editor of the organ in 1959. He worked as a diplomat for over 10 years since he was appointed ambassador to China in 1966.

In May 1977, he was dismissed as ambassador to China and was appointed vice chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, which is in charge of nongovernmental diplomatic affairs. Based on his experience in diplomatic affairs, he was nominated as vice director of the International Department of the WPK Central Committee in December of that year.

He was elected candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee in 1975, and was elected Politburo member at the Sixth WPK Congress held in October 1980. As a counselor of the Administration Council, he became chief delegate of the North Korean side to the eight working-level South-North contacts that began in February 1980 for holding a dialogue between the South and North Korean prime ministers.

He visited China twice while working for the WPK International Department from the late seventies until the early eighties, accompanying Kim Il-song, and also visited Peru, Japan, Mexico, and Cuba. He was appointed as first vice director of the WPK International Department in 1983, and was promoted to director of the department in 1986.

In December 1988, Hyon was appointed editor in chief of NODONG SINMUN, as well as chairman of the Korean Journalists Union, succeeding Chu Chang-chun, who is current North Korean ambassador to China. Lately, the North Korean radio has been referring to him as a WPK director, but it has not been learned yet what department he is in charge of.

Hong Sok-hyong, Hong Myong-hui's grandson, a member of the faction favoring opening up, and chairman of the State Planning Committee under the State Administration Council

Hong Sok-hyong is a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the State Planning Committee under the State Administration Council.

Hong was elected a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee during the 21st Plenary Session of the Sixth Party Central Committee held in December 1993. That same month, he was appointed chairman of the State Planning Committee to replace Kim Tal-hyon during the sixth session of the Ninth SPA held a few days after the 21st party plenary session. Thus, Hong enjoyed rapid advancement toward the center of power in the DPRK, entering the spotlight.

Hong's educational background and career before the 1970's are not known. He worked as head of the roll plant at Kim Chaek Iron Complex in 1981, and became the first vice minister of the Ministry of the Metal Industry under the State Administration Council in 1984. He was elected a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in 1986.

Hong is the grandson of Hong Myong-hui, who is the writer of the novel "Yim Kkok-chong," and the son of Hong Ki-mun, who was CPRF chairman.

Hong is a metal industry specialist. He is one of the faction in North Korea favoring opening up, along with like Kim Tal-hyon and Yi Song-tae.

Hong Song-nam, vice premier of the State Administration Council. Also, the first generation of those who studied in foreign countries. He is loyal to Kim Chong-il.

Hong Song-nam is a member of the WPK Central Committee, a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, and vice premier of the State Administration Council.

Born in Wonsan city, Kangwon Province in 1924, Hong Song-nam graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied at Prague Engineering College in Czechoslovakia, majoring in mechanical engineering.

In view of the fact that he was once a member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and in view of his age, Hong Song-nam was once anticipated to step away from power in the era of Kim Chong-il. However, he is still in the center of power and is clearly one of those who hold power in North Korea today.

In particular, when Kim Chong-il published an article titled "Socialism Is a Science" on NODONG SINMUN dated 1 November after the death of Kim Il-song in an attempt to make public his ruling philosophy, Hong Song-nam was the first to praise Kim Chong-il in a radio program called "People's reaction to the article."

Hwang Chang-yop, chairman of the Foreign Affairs of the SPA; A person who played a leading role in systematizing the chuche idea.

Suppose North Korea is a house, the biggest pillar that supports this house is, needless to say, the chuche idea. This is because the chuche idea serves as a theoretical basis that politically justifies the Kim Il-song-Kim Chong-il succession system and as a shield that blocks foreign thoughts from society.

Therefore, in North Korea, the chuche idea is not a mere idea but a religious creed. It is Hwang Chang-yop who systematized the chuche idea.

Two things greatly helped him systematize the chuche idea: One is that he was the first to study philosophy in North Korea, and the other is his "special relations" with Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

He studied philosophy in Moscow in 1952. He became the chief of the Philosophy Faculty of Kim Il-song University and a member of the Academy of Social Sciences in October 1954 and, thus, began gaining prominence gradually. He became the deputy chief of the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department in December 1959 and the chairman of the SPA Standing Committee in December 1972.

In particular, he served as chairman of the SPA for as long as 10 years. This is because, when North Korea stepped up its diplomatic efforts toward nonaligned countries in the mid-seventies, he greatly contributed to propagandizing the chuche idea overseas by visiting foreign countries as head of SPA delegations or government delegations and attending chuche idea seminars.

While serving as chairman of the SPA, Hwang Chang-yop reportedly visited 30 countries on 20 occasions and established chuche idea institutes in various countries.

His "special relations" with Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il were formed when he became the husband of Kim Il-song's niece.

Also, Kim Chong-il's second wife, Kim Hye-suk, was the matchmaker. And, his wife once worked as Kim Chong-il's tutor. This indicates his close relations with Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

Because of these special relations, Hwang Chang-yop taught Kim Chong-il how to rule a country after he was elected as successor to Kim Il-song at the Seventh Session of the Fifth WPK Central Committee and managed his public and private life.

Hwang Chang-yop contributed more than anyone else to consolidating Kim Chong-il's succession system. He led the efforts to revise Kim Chong-il's past history to recast his image as successor.

Hwang Chang-yop played a leading role in changing the birthplace of Kim Chong-il from Siberia to the Mt. Paektu secret camp, calling Kim Chong-il the "sagacious leader," the "party center," and the "dear comrade leader," designating 16 February, Kim Chong-il's birthday, as a holiday, and initiating the three revolutions teams movement, thus oozing out "remaining poison in the party."

His official titles are party secretary in charge of the party's ideology and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA. However, he reportedly is deeply involved in South Korean and Japanese affairs. As for South Korean affairs, he gives advice on the ideology as the vice chairman of the CPRF. And as for relations with Japan, he plays a supporting role in handling the issue of establishing diplomatic relations with Japan through Former Kyoto University President Mitsutani and other Japanese dignitaries.

Therefore, Hwang Chang-yop is not a mere "ideological godfather" but a powerful figure involved even in South Korean and Japanese affairs. And, the further Kim Chong-il's power base will be consolidated, the further his position will be consolidated.

Hwang Tae-yon, artist, from a worker to a landscape master

The best landscape artist in North Korea, he is called a "youth artist."

The works of the 68-year-old artists are appraised as "colorful and delicate." North Korean art critics attribute his technique to "the application of the color techniques of the Choson Dynasty paintings to oil paintings."

Hwang Tae-yon was born to a woman diver in Cheju Island in 1926. He went to the North right after the liberation and was a worker at Chongjin Steel mill when he turned into an artist. He has about 400 works represented by "This Railway Must Be Connected," "Spring Shower," "Sunset," and "The Jubilation of the Sea." The work "This Railway Must Be Connected" took 10 years to complete and is said to "depict the painful reality of the divided nation due to the seizure of South Korea by the U.S. Army."

On the other hand, the "Spring Shower" only took a day to finish. The "Sunset" is praised to have "simplified structure and skilled strokes that are diverse and at the same time harmonious in unified combination of colors so that the scene of the autumn riverbank and joyous farmers are illustrated brightly."

Hwang Tae-yon had his personal exhibition at the Korean Art Gallery in Pyongyang in 1991.

Abbreviated Profiles of 200 DPRK Figures

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[Names followed by an asterisk denote those figures who are profiled in a detailed biography in the above article from the same issue of this journal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kang Sok-chu *

Kang Song-san *

Kang Sok-sung: Born in Pyongyang in 1923, graduated from Kim Il-song University and Moscow University, director of the party [the Workers Party of Korea, WPK] History Institute, member of the WPK Central Committee, director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and deputy to the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA].

Kang Yong-sop:
January-November 1969: Deputy director of the Secretariat of the Fourth Cabinet.
December 1969-February 1973: Ambassador to Romania and Mali
February 1989: Chairman of the Korean Christians Federation
May 1989: Vice chairman of the Korean Religionists Council
September 1989: Visited India, leading a Korean Christians Federation delegation.
April 1990: Elected deputy to the Ninth SPA
May 1990: Elected member of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee.
An incumbent member of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee.

Kang Chu-il:
1978: Visited Japan, leading Pyongyang Art Troupe.
April 1986: Vice chairman of the Korean Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA

Incumbent director of the Department of United Front of the WPK Central Committee.

Kang Hyon-su:
Born in Pyongyang in 1925. Kim Il-song's maternal cousin. Participated in the anti-Japanese struggle.
1953: Graduated from Kim Il-song University.
November 1967: Deputy to the Fourth SPA.
December 1977: Deputy to the Sixth SPA and member of the SPA Budget Deliberation Committee.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA
December 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA and a member of the SPA Legislation Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA .
May 1990: A member of the Central People's Committee.
Presently, a member of the city and provincial party committee [as published].

Kang Hui-won:
Born in North Make sure Yi Kun-mo is still in North Hamgyong Province in 1921.
1937: Imprisoned due to the involvement in the communist movement in the period of the Japanese domination.
July 1958: Vice minister of the Ministry of Electricity under the Fourth Cabinet.
September 1961: Director of the Industry Department of the WPK Central Committee, member of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
February 1982: A candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
November 1993: Dismissed from the post of chairman of Pyongyang City Administrative and Economic Committee.
Presently, a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the State Administration Council.

Kye Ung-tae *

Ko Hak-su *

Kong Chin-tae:
Born in South Pyongan Province in 1925. Graduated from Nihon University of Japan.
1954: Professor at the National Economy Institute.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
June 1975-October 1985: Vice premier of the State Administration Council.
April 1982-December 1986: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Reappointed as chairman of the People's Service Committee under the State Administration Council.
Presently, chairman of the People's Service Committee.

Kwak Pom-ki:
Former manager at Huichon Mine Tool Plant. Presently, minister of the Ministry of Machine Industry under the State Administration Council.

Kwon Hui-kyong:
Born in Chagang Province in 1928.
1953-1956: Worked in the WPK Central Committee.
1965: Vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Visited Congo and Finland, leading a government delegation in September 1965.
January 1972-August 1976: DPRK ambassador to the Soviet Union.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
August 1976-February 1980: Vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
October 1980: Elected at the Fifth WPK Congress as a member of the WPK Central Committee.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
12 March 1988: Elected at the 13th plenary session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee as a member of the party Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA. Director of the External Information and Research Department of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Kang-hwan:
He was born in Pyongyang in 1931 and graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. He is a member of the WPK Central Committee, a member of the WPK Military Commission, the director of the WPK Military Department, and a colonel general of the KPA.

Kim Kyong-pong:
December 1986-March 1988: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the 12th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
December 1986: Elected as deputy to the Eighth SPA and member of the SPA Standing Committee.
12 March 1988: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Retains his positions as director of the SPA Secretariat and president of the Academy of Sciences. Appointed as vice chairman of the State Degree and Academic Position Awarding Committee.
April 1991: Dismissed from the post of director of the SPA Secretariat.
Currently, serving as president of the Academy of Sciences.

Kim Kyong-hui:
First daughter of Kim Il-song (from his marriage to Kim Chong- suk)
Born in Pyongyang in 1946. Graduated from Kim Il-song University.
February 1984: Appointed as deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.
November 1988: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election at the 14th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.

April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, serving as director of the Light Industry Department of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Kwang-suk: *

Kim Kwang-suk: *

Kim Kwang-chin: *
Born in South Pyongan Province in 1918.
August 1948: Elected as deputy to the First SPA.
December 1972: Elected as deputy to the Fifth SPA.
May 1978-Aug 1985: Appointed as deputy chief of staff of the SPA (lieutenant general).
October 1980: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the sixth congress.
February 1982: Elected as deputy to the Seventh SPA.
July 1984: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election.
August 1985: Elected as deputy minister of People's Armed Forces (general).
November 1986: Elected as deputy to the Eighth SPA.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Elected as member of the National Defense Commission.
September 1990: Elected as delegate to the second North-South high-level talks.
December 1990: Elected as delegate to the third North-South high-level talks.
Currently, serving as member of the National Defense Commission.

Kim Kuk-tae: *

Kim Kuk-hun:
Born in North Hamgyong Province in 1919.
October 1962-June 1969: Elected as president of Kim Chaek University of Engineering.
October 1962: Elected as deputy to the Third SPA.
November 1970: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee at the fifth party congress.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA, president of the University of the People's Economy, and chairman of the DPRK Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity.
Currently, serving a member of the SPA Legislation Committee.

Kim Ki-nam: *

Kim Tal-hyon: *

Kim Tu-nam:
Born in North Pyongan Province in 1927, graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kang Kon Military School.
1963: Finished courses at the Soviet Military Academy.
October 1967: Elected as deputy to the Fourth SPA.
October 1980: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Military Commission (sixth party congress).
August 1982-1986: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau in a by-election at the fifth party congress of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
August 1982-June 1985: Elected as director of the Military Department of the WPK Central Committee at the sixth congress of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
April 1985: Promoted to general.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, serving as member of the WPK Central Military Commission.

Kim Pyong-sik: *

Kim Pok-sin: *

Kim Pong-yul:
Born in Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province in 1911. Graduated from a Soviet middle school and Leningrad Literature University, joined the Soviet Army before the liberation and participated in a war against Germany as artillery sergeant major.
December 1950-June 1969: Served as infantry commanding general of the Supreme Command. Promoted to lieutenant general in April 1952.
April 1956: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the third party congress.
September 1957: Elected as vice national defense minister in the third cabinet.
October 1980: Re-elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the fourth party congress.
April 1985: Promoted to general (vice minister of People's Armed Forces).
Currently, serving as member of the National Defense Commission.

Kim Pong-chu:
Born in Pyongyang in 1930. Graduated from Kim Il-song University. Served as chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and deputy to the Ninth SPA.

Kim Sok-hyong *

Kim Song-ku:
January 1966: Official of the Trade Mission to Uruguay.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
July 1982: Manager at Namhung Youth Chemical Complex.
December 1984-November 1985: Minister of chemical industry under the Administration Council.
December 1984: Appointed candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at a by-election (the 10th plenary session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee).
August 1989: Appointed minister of local industry under the Administration Council.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, the minister of local industry under the Administration Council.

Kim Song-ae *

Kim Se-yong:
February 1986: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.
July 1986: Minister of natural resources development.
2 November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
September 1987: Visited Malta and North Yemen as the head of the government delegation.
May 1989: Dismissed from the post of minister of natural resources development.
May 1990: Reappointed as minister of natural resources development.
Currently, minister of natural resources development.

Kim Su-hak:
September 1990: Director of North Korea's Red Cross Hospital and hosts "the Fourth National Seminar on Gerontology."
Currently, minister of public health under the Administration Council.

Kim Si-hak:
Born in South Pyongan Province in 1923. Graduated from Moscow University.
November 1956: Member of the foreign literature department of the Writers' Union.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fifth Party Congress) and director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee (reappointed at the Sixth Party Congress)
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA and member of the SPA deputies qualification examination committee.
Currently, minister of the Administration Department under the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Yong-nam *

Kim Yong-tuk:
September 1981: Chairman of the Chongjin Municipal People's Committee, delivers a welcoming speech at the mass rally welcoming repatriated Koreans from Japan.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
April 1985: Vice chairman of the Light Industry Committee under the Administration Council.
June 1985: Chairman of the Yanggang Provincial Administrative and Economic Committee.
2 November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
Currently, chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial Administrative and Economic Committee.

Kim Yong-chu *

Kim Yong-che:
June 1962: Manager at Nampo Telecommunications Machine Plant.
February 1965: Manger at Pyongyang Electrical Machine Plant.
November 1967: Deputy to the Fourth SPA.
December 1977-September 1988: Minister of post and telecommunications under the Administration Council (the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth cabinet).
October 1980: Director of a department of the WPK Central Committee (the Sixth Party Congress).
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the SPA deputies qualification examination committee.
Currently, director of the Personnel Department of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Yong-ho:
Chairman of the trade union at Kusong Engineering Machine Plant in North Pyongan Province in 1970. Received the title of the People's Scientist and the First-grade Order of National Flag.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA and the head of a mathematical engineering laboratory of the Academy of Sciences.
Currently, member of the SPA deputies qualification examination committee.

Kim yong-sun *

Kim Won-chin:
February 1980: Vice president of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences.
August 1981: Vice chairman of the North Korea-Bulgaria Friendship Association.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
March 1988: Appointed candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election.
June 1988: First vice chairman of the Agricultural Committee
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
October 1990: Promoted to the post of chairman of the Agricultural Committee.
Currently, chairman of the Agricultural Committee under the Administration Council.

Kim Yu-sun:
Born in Pyongyang in 1928. Graduated from Kim Il-song University and Prague Engineering College. Currently serving as member of the International Olympics Committee, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee, and ambassador to Romania.

Kim Won-chin:
February 1980: Vice president of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences.
August 1981: Vice chairman of the North Korea-Bulgaria Friendship Association.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
March 1988: Appointed candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election.
June 1988: First vice chairman of the Agricultural Committee
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
October 1990: Promoted to the post of chairman of the Agricultural Committee.

Currently, chairman of the Agricultural Committee under the Administration Council.

Kim Yun-hyok:
Born in Pyongyang in South Pyongyang Province. Graduated from Kim Chaek Engineering University and Leningrad Engineering College.
December 1977: Deputy to the Sixth SPA.
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Sixth Party Congress).
August 1986: First vice premier of the Administration Council.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
December 1986: Reappointed vice premier of the Administration Council.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Retained the vice premiership.
April 1990: Visited Guinea.
Currently, vice premier of the Administration Council.

Kim Yun-hong *

Kim Ung-sang:
He was born in East Manchuria and is a direct descendant of Kim Il-song.
October 1953: Elected as vice director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1962: Elected as deputy to the Third SPA.
December 1977: Elected as chairman of the State Construction Committee of the Administration Council (the Sixth Cabinet). Visited the Soviet Union in September 1980 as head of the architectural delegation.
October 1980: Reelected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth WPK Congress.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, chairman of the State Construction Committee of the Administration Council.

Kim I-yong:
Manager of the 8 February Chiktong Youth Mine.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.
September 1990: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Coal Industry. Visited the Soviet Union as head of the Ministry of Coal Industry delegation.
Currently, minister of the Ministry of Coal Industry of the Administration Council.

Kim Ik-hyon:
Participated in the anti-Japanese guerrilla unit.
November 1970: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee (Fifth WPK Congress).
February 1972: Elected as commander of the Fourth Corps (lieutenant general).
December 1972: Elected as deputy to the Fifth SPA.
1973: Elected as vice director of the Military Affairs Department of the WPK Central Committee. (Fifth WPK Congress).
August 1977: Elected as vice minister of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces (colonel general).
1982: It has been rumored that he was purged.
Currently, member of the Military Commission of the WPK Central Committee and director of its Civil Defense Department.

Kim Il-chin *

Kim Il-chol *

Kim Chae-yul:
December 1988: Elected as forestry minister.
November 1986: Elected as deputy to the Eighth SPA.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, forestry minister of the Administration Council.

Kim Chong-suk:
Wife of Ho Tam. Kim Il-song's younger cousin.
May 1954: Elected as director of the Democratic Youth League Central Committee.
October 1959: Elected as vice chairman of the Democratic Youth League Central Committee.
May 1964: Elected as vice chairman of the League of Socialist Youth of Korea [LSWYK] (Democratic Youth League renamed).
February 1982: Elected as deputy to the Seventh SPA.
March 1988: Elected as candidate member of the Central Committee in by-election at the 13th plenary session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA.

Kim Chong-u *

Kim Chong-ho:
January 1984: People's Committee of Chagang Province [as published].
February 1987: Elected as vice chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of Chagang Province.
March 1983: Also holds post of chairman of the Regional Planning Committee of Chagang Province.
August 1989: Elected as chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of Chagang Province.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of Chagang Province of the Administration Council.

Kim Chung-nin *

Kim Chang-yong:
Born on 1946. Graduated from Kim Il-song University.
October 1981: Elected as vice chairman of the LSWYK Central Committee.
March 1983: Elected as chairman of the Korean Students Committee.
November 1984: Elected as advisory member of the South-North Red Cross Talks.
September 1985: Elected as vice director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

1989: Elected as vice chairman of the DPRK preparatory committee for the 13th World Youth, Students Festival.
May 1989: Elected as head of the North delegation for the South- North Red Cross Talks.
September 1989: Elected as vice chairman of the struggle committee to release Yim Su-kyong.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, ambassador to Algeria and Mauritania.

Kim Chang-chu:
Born in Pyongyang on 1923. Kim Il-song's younger cousin. Graduated from Kim Il-song University. Studied at Moscow University.
1955: Elected as instructor of the Organization and Guidance Department of the WPK.
February 1982: Elected as vice premier of the Administration Council.
February 1982: Elected as deputy to the Seventh SPA and member of the Budget Deliberation Committee.
February 1982: Elected as vice premier and chairman of the Agriculture Committee (the Seventh Cabinet).
April 1982: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee in by-election at the fifth session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
October 1989: Dismissed from the post of chairman of the Agriculture Committee.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Retained as vice premier.
Currently, vice premier of the Administration Council.

Kim Chang-ho *

Kim Chang-hwan:
Born on 1923.
1965: Elected as 47th Divisional Commander (major general).
October 1980: Elected as member of the Central Inspection Committee of the WPK (Sixth WPK Congress).
October 1982: Received Order of National Flag First Class.
Currently, member of the Central Inspection Committee of the WPK.

Kim Chol *

Kim Chol-man:
Born in 1918.
1935: Took a part in the anti-Japanese guerrilla movement in east Manchuria.
1948: Regimental commander (senior colonel) of the 25th Regiment of the 10th Division.
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA.
February 1968: Deputy chief of the General Staff (colonel general).
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fifth WPK Congress)
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the Defense Commission and candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.
April 1992: Double hero of the Republic.
Currently, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Defense Commission.

Kim Chol-myong:
December 1984: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee (the 10th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee)
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
December 1986: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the 12th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee)
April 1988: President of the Chuche Idea Academy.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee.
Currently, member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee.

Kim Chung-il:
September 1983: Vice manager at Tanchon Construction Office.
September 1983: Received the Second-Grade Order of National Flag.
August 1985: Responsible secretary of the Chongjin Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Chongjin Municipal People's Committee.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
March 1991: Chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial Administrative and Economic Committee.
Currently, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial Administrative and Economic Committee.

Kim Tae-kuk:
December 1977: Minister of materials supplying (the Sixth Cabinet).
October 1980: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee (the Sixth WPK Congress).
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
April 1982: Retains the post of minister of materials supplying at the Seventh Cabinet.
January 1986: Vice president of Central Materials General Corporations.
April 1989: Receives the Kim Il-song Order.
Currently, chairman of the Materials Supplying Committee under the Administration Council.

Kim Pil-hwan:
Served as pit manager of Kumsan Pit under Yongyang Coal Mine in Tanchon County, South Hamgyong Province.
December 1977: Deputy to the Sixth SPA.
January 1980: Being awarded the title of Labor Hero.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
January 1990: Minister of coal industry under the Administration Council.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.
Currently, minister of coal industry under the Administration Council.

Kim Ha-kyu:
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
July 1988: Visited Cuba as the head of a friendship delegation.
September 1987: Deputy chief of the General Staff (Lieutenant General)
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, member of the WPK Central Military Commission.

Kim Hak-pong:
Born in South Hamgyong Province in 1926 and graduated from Kim Il-song University.
1965: Deputy director of the Organization and Guidance Department of the WPK Central Committee.
February 1986: Elected member of the WPK Central Committee at the Eleventh Plenary Session of the WPK Central Committee in a by- election.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
January 1991: Responsible secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee.
Currently, responsible secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee.

Kim Hak-sop *

Kim Hwan *

Kim Hung-sam:
Served as general director of the Local Industry General Bureau in South Hamgyong Province and chairman of the Yanggang Provincial Administrative and Economic Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
December 1990: Visited China.
Currently, chairman of the Yanggang Provincial Administrative and Economic Committee under the Administration Council.

Nam Tae-hyon *

No Myong-kun *

Pak Kwan-o:
May 1971: Vice president of the Academy of Sciences.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
February 1978: Vice chairman of the Atomic Energy Committee.
January 1981: Chief of the Atomic Energy Laboratory. Visited the former Soviet Union as the head of Atomic Energy Laboratory delegation.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
January 1987: President of Kim Il-song University
Visited former Soviet Union (March 1987) and Iran (January 1989) as the head of Kim Il-song University delegation.
May 1989: the chief head to inter-Korean talks for the World's Youths and Students Festival.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the Bill Deliberations Committee.
Currently, member of the SPA Legislation Committee.

Pak Kil-yon:
He was born in Chagang Province in 1943 and served as deputy to the Ninth SPA and served concurrently as ambassador to Colombia and as the North Korean ambassador to the United Nations.

Pak Nam-ki *

Pak Myong-chol:
1934: Born in Uiju.
1975: Appointed to dean of Pyongyang Gymnastics College.
July 1976: Elected as vice chairman of the Sports Guidance Committee, and visited Canada as head of the Olympic delegation.
February 1986: Visited Japan as vice chairman of the National Olympic Committee and head of the delegation of this committee.
June 1989: Elected as vice chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Committee (former Sports Guidance Committee).
March 1990: Attended Asian Winter Olympics (Sapporo, Japan) as head of North Korean sports team.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to Ninth SPA.
October 1990: Made an opening address at Republic's championship.
February 1991: Visited Japan as sports delegate.
Presently chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Committee of the Administration Council.

Pak San-un *

Pak Song-chol *

Pak Su-tong:
1923: Born in North Pyongan Province. Graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy, studied at Moscow University.
June 1968: Elected as responsible secretary of WPK Yanggang Provincial Committee.
July 1970: Elected as responsible secretary of WPK South Hwanghae Provincial Committee.
November 1970: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee at Fifth Congress.
1972: Deputy director of department of organization of WPK Central Committee.
December 1972: Elected as deputy to Fifth SPA.
October 1980: Elected as secretary of the party Central Committee at the Sixth Congress.
December 1981 to June 1985: Chairman of the South Hwanghae Province People's Committee.
June 1982: Elected as member of the SPA Standing Committee.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Retains membership of the SPA Standing Committee.
October 1990: Visited Cuba as head of delegation of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea.
Currently member of the SPA Standing Committee.

Pak Sung-il:
1922: Born in South Pyongan Province. Completed central party school.
June 1963 to June 1974: Chairman of Manpo County People's Committee.
November 1967: Deputy to Fourth SPA.
January 1986: Responsible secretary of WPK Nampo Municipal Committee and chairman of the People's Committee.
February 1986: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the Central People's Committee.
Currently chairman of the WPK Nampo municipal party.

Pak Yong-sok
Graduated from Research Institute, Soviet Railway College.
July 1961: Appointed to director of construction bureau in Ministry of Transportation.
February 1969: Director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.
November 1970: Elected member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth Congress.
December 1986: Appointed to Minister of Railways. (the Eighth Cabinet)
April 1990: Elected deputy to Ninth SPA.
April 1990: Remains as Minister of Railways.
Currently Minister of Railways in the Administration Council.

Pak Tae-ho
November 1980: Appointed to chairman of Buddhist Women's Union.
November 1986: Elected as deputy to Eighth SPA.
June 1989: Visited Soviet Union as head of delegation of the Buddhist Union; Sri Lanka (March 1990), and Mongolia (September 1990).
April 1990: Elected as deputy to Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Appointed to member of the reviewing committee for reunification policy.
Currently member of the reunification policy committee of the SPA.

Pae Kil-su *

Paek Nam-chun *

Paek Pom-su
1928: Born in North Hamgyong Province, graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and Kim Il-song University.
November 1970: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth Congress.
1973 to 1974: Political member of the Third Corps. (Lieutenant General)
July 1980 to February 1988: Responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae provincial party committee.
October 1980: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth Congress.
February 1982: Elected as deputy to Seventh SPA.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to Ninth SPA.
October 1990: Released as chairman of Agricultural Committee.
1991: Responsible secretary of South Hwanghae provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee.
June 1991: Visited Chita, Soviet Union, as head of South Hwanghae Provincial delegation.
Currently chairman of the WPK South Hwanghae provincial committee.

Paek In-chun *

Paek Hak-nim *

So Kwan-hui
1926: Born in South Pyongan Province.
1950: Studied at Moscow University.
May 1954: director of Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee agriculture committee.
November 1967: Elected as deputy to Fourth SPA.
October 1980: Relected as member of the WPK Central Committee member at the Sixth Party Congress.
October 1980 to February 1982: vice premier of Administration Council.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to Ninth SPA.
December 1990: Visited China and Thailand as head of WPK delegation.
April 1992: Received Kim Il-song medal.
Currently WPK secretary in charge of agricultural affairs.

So Yun-sok:
Born on 9 September 1928 in North Jiandao and graduated from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kim Il-song University.
November 1970: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth WPK Congress.
December 1970: Elected as responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party.
December 1972: Elected as deputy to the Fifth SPA.
April 1980: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee at a by-election.
October 1980: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee and candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth WPK Congress.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
April 1990: Retained as member of the Central People's Committee [CPC].
October 1990: Participates in the ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Pyongyang University of Engineering.
August 1993: Elected as responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party.
Currently, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Son Song-pil:
Born on 1927 in Hwanghae Province. Appointed as chairman of the DPRK-Mozambique Friendship Association; vice chairman of the DPRK- Japan Friendship

Promotion Association; member of the WPK Central Committee; deputy to the Ninth SPA; and ambassador to Russia.

Song Ho-kyong *

Sin Kyong-sik:
December 1972: Elected as deputy to the Fifth SPA.
November 1979: Elected as director of the Central Statistic Bureau of the State Planning Committee.
February 1982: Elected as deputy to the Seventh SPA.
February 1986: Elected as member of the Inspection Committee of the WPK Central Committee at the 11th session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
November 1986: Elected as deputy to the Eighth SPA and member of the Budget Deliberation Committee.
December 1986: Elected as director of the Central Statistic Bureau of the Administration Council and member of the Budget Deliberation Committee of the SPA.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, director of the Central Statistic Bureau of the Administration Council.

An Pyong-su *

Yang Hyong-sop *

Yo Yon-ku:
Born on 1927 in Seoul. Eldest daughter of Yo Un-hyong. Dropped out of Ehwa Women's University.
June 1981-April 1986: Elected as director of the Secretariat of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland.
January 1982: Elected as member of the Central Election Committee.
February 1982: Elected as deputy to the Seventh SPA.
May 1986: Elected as chairwoman of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA and vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the SPA.
August 1990: Elected as chairwoman of the Korean Struggle Committee to Release Yim Su-kyong.
February 1991: Elected as vice chairwoman of the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) and vice chairwoman of the Committee for Aiding Overseas Fellow Countrymen.
June 1991: Visited Japan to take part in the South-North Women Representative Meeting.
Currently, vice chairwoman of the SPA.

Yon Hyong-muk *

Yom Chae-man:
October 1980: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth WPK Congress.
February 1982: Elected as deputy to the Seventh SPA.
March 1985: Elected as minister of the Third Machine Industry Ministry.
November 1986: Elected as deputy to the Eighth SPA.
November 1986: Elected as chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of North Pyongan Province.
March 1990: Visited Liaoning Province as head of the friendship delegation.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of North Pyongan Province of the Administration Council.

Yom Tae-chun:
Born on 1921 in South Hamgyong Province.
August 1953: Elected as director of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party.
June 1960: Elected as vice chairman of the Chongjin Municipal Party Committee.
July 1961: Elected as chairman of the Chongjin Municipal Party Committee.
September 1961: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fourth WPK Congress.
July 1962-April 1964: Elected as minister of the Ministry of City Management (the Second Cabinet).
October 1962: Elected as deputy to the Third SPA.
November 1970: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee at Fifth WPK Congress.
October 1989: Elected as vice chairman of Committee To Save Reverend Mun Ik-hwan.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
November 1990: Participated in the central report meeting to mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Korean Social Democratic Party.
Currently, deputy to the Standing Committee of the SPA.

O Kuk-yol *

O Mi-ran *

O Song-yol:
1967: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Land and Marine Transportation (the Fourth Cabinet).
December 1972: Elected as director of the General Bureau of Marine Transportation of the Transportation and Communications Committee (the Fifth Cabinet).
April 1983: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Marine Transportation (the Seventh Cabinet).
December 1983: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election at the sixth session of the Eighth WPK Congress.
April 1986: Elected as director of the General Bureau of Marine Transportation of the Transportation Committee.
November 1986: Elected as deputy to the Eighth SPA.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Marine Transportation of the Administration Council.
Currently, minister of the Ministry of Marine Transportation of the Administration Council.

O Yong-pang:
1959: Served in the Reconnaissance Department of the First Army Group of the Korean People's Army [KPA].
June 1967: Commander of a KPA unit.
November 1970: Elected a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth party Congress.

January 1975: Director of the KPA Political Security Bureau. (KPA lieutenant general).
October 1980: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the WPK Central Committee Military Commission at the Sixth party Congress.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA and commander of a KPA unit.
April 1982: Received Kim Il-song metal.
February 1986: Full member of the WPK Central Committee.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
Presently, member of the Military Commission of the WPK Central Committee.

O Chin-u:
Born in Pukchong, North Hamgyong Province in 1916.
1933: Member of Kim Il-song-led anti-Japanese guerrilla unit.
Before 1945: Studied at the Infantry School and the Military College of the Soviet Union Army.
October 1945: Director of the Security Guard Bureau under the KPA Supreme Command.
September 1961: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Political Bureau of the WPKJ Central Committee.
May 1976: Minister of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces. (Promoted to KPA general and to vice marshal in April 1985)
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, and member of the Military Committee of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1980: Director of the General Political Bureau [as published] in addition to the above-mentioned posts.
March 1990: Met with Jiang Zemin in Pyongyang.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Vice chairman of the National Defense Committee under the CPC.
27 January 1992: Contributed an article titled "Our party is the great guide brilliantly inheriting and developing the anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition" to NODONG SINMUN.
April 1992: Received the Title of Double Hero of the Republic .
April 1993: First vice chairman of the National Defense Committee.
Presently, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and first chairman of the National Defense Committee.

U Chong-hak:
April 1982: Vice chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU]. Visited PRC (in April 1982 and April 1985), Guyana (in October 1984), and the Soviet Union (in July 1986), leading a GFTU delegation.
June 1985: Vice chairman of the Socialist Working Youth League [SWYL].
February 1986: Vice chairman of the Agricultural Workers Union.
April 1990: Deputy to Ninth SPA.
1991: Vice chairman of the North's side headquarters of the Pannational Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon].
Presently, serves as a member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee.

Won Tong-ku:
Born in South Hamgyong Province and studied at Moscow University in 1948.
December 1977: Deputy to the Sixth SPA.
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the GFTU.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA and member of the SPA Standing Committee.
May 1991: Visited PRC, leading a GFTU delegation.
Presently, serves as director of the Department of Public Organizations of the WQPK Central Committee.

Yu Kyu-tong:
December 1977: Deputy to the Sixth SPA.
February 1985-May 1987: Dean of Pyongyang Medical College.
November 196: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the SPA Budget Deliberation Committee and vice chairman of the DPRK Red Cross Society.
Oct 1990: Director of the Academy of Medical Science. Visited Nepal to attend the 7th WHO conference, leading a DPRK Red Cross delegation.
Presently, a member of the SPA Budget Deliberation Committee.

Yu Mi-yong:
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Presently, a member of the Ninth SPA Standing Committee.

Yu Ho-chun:
January 1979-September 1982: Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.
May 1986: Director of the Secretariat of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA and member of the SPA Standing Committee. Visited Ecuador (in October 1988) and Cuba (in October and November 1988), leading a SPA delegation.
February 1990: Member of the Central Election Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Visited Italy, France, and Belgium, leading a SPA delegation.
May 1990: Member of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Ninth SPA.
Presently, member of the SPA Standing Committee.

Yun Ki-pok *

Yun Ki-chong *

Yun Pyong-kwon:
Born in South Pyongan Province.
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA.
December 1964: Chief of a workshop at a construction enterprise in Pyongyang city.
November 1967: Deputy to the Fourth SPA and manager of the housing construction station in So-kuyok, Pyongyang.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA, commander of the Pyongyang city youth construction division, labor hero, and director of the General Bureau of Pyongyang City Construction.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA and member of the SPA Budget Deliberation Committee.

Yi Kun-mo *

Yi Kil-song:
Born in South Hamgyong Province in 1923 and graduated from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute and Leningrad Engineering College.
August 1968: responsible secretary of South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
March 1972: Responsible secretary of Yanggang Provincial Party Committee.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Chairman of the Transportation Committee under the Administration Council.
Presently, responsible secretary of Yanggang Provincial Party Committee.

Yi Tong-chol:
August 1988: North Korea side's delegate to preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary meeting.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
April 1990: Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA.
Presently, a deputy to the Ninth SPA.

Yi Tong-chun:
January 1966: Director of the Operations Bureau of the Ministry of Electric and Coal Industries.
May 1966: Director of the Management and Planning Bureau of the Ministry of Electric and Coal Industries.
August 1968: Second secretary of North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee.
May 1970: Responsible secretary of North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
November 1981: Responsible secretary of Chaggang Provincial Party Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the SPA Qualification Screening Committee.
Presently, Building Materials Industry minister.

Yi Tu-ik:
Born in Manchuria, China in 1921.
1938-1940: Bodyguard of Kim Il-song as a member of the anti- Japanese guerrillas.
1945: Graduated from Anjin Military Academy in Manchuria, PRC.
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA.
May 1963: KPA lieutenant general; director of a bureau in the Ministry of National Defense [the predecessor of the present Ministry of People's Armed Forces].
August 1963-1966: Commander of the KPA 7th Corps.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Military Commission under the WPK Central Committee.
April 1985: Promoted to KPA general.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Presently, a member of the Military Commission under the WPK Central Committee.

Yi Nak-pin:
November 1967: Deputy to the Fourth SPA.
December 1967: Minister of the Ministry of Public Health.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Inspection Committee.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
October 1980: Chairman of the WPK Central Inspection Committee.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Presently, chairman of the WPK Central Inspection Committee.

Yi Mong-ho:
September 1953: Graduated from Kim Il-song University.
1955: Studied at Moscow University.
1958: Member of the History Institute under the Academy of Sciences.
February 1986: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA and member of the SPA Standing Committee.
March 1988: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Visited Iran, leading a DPRK cultural delegation.
October 1990: Visited Uruguay to attend International Parliamentary Union conference, leading a DPRK parliamentary delegation.
October 1990: Secretary of the Standing Committee of the Ninth SPA.
Presently, secretary of the Standing Committee of the Ninth SPA.

Yi Pong-kil:
Born in North Pyongan Province in 1926. Graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute and Kim Il-song University.
1967: Responsible secretary of Chagang Provincial Party Committee.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
March 1973: Responsible secretary of Chagang Provincial Party Committee.
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
1981: Responsible secretary of North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee.
June 1984: Responsible secretary of Chagang Provincial Party Committee and chairman of Chagang Provincial People's Committee.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the Central People's Committee.
April 1992: Received Kim Il-song Medal.
Presently, chairman of the WPK Central Control Committee.

Yi Pong-won *

Yi Sok:
March 1977: Unit commander of the People's Army (senior colonel).
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
July 1984: Member of the WPK Central Auditing Committee (the Ninth Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee)
August 1984: President of Kim Hyong-chik Military Medical College.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
December 1986: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee (the 12th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee) and minister of shipping industry.
March 1988: Elected member of the WPK Central Committee at a by- election of the 13th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Retained his post of the minister of shipping industry.
Currently, minister of shipping industry.

Yi Son-sil:
Born in Cheju in 1916 and graduated from Ehwa Women' College and Kumgang School.
Currently serves as candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, member of the WPK Central Committee, vice chairman of the South Korean National Democratic Fronts, and deputy to the Ninth SPA.

Yi Song-tae *

Yi Song-nok *

Yi Yong-kyun:
August 1981: President of the Academy of Social Sciences.
Visited former Soviet Union (November 1981 and September 1984) and Bulgaria (June 1985 and May 1988) as the head of a delegation of the Academy of Social Sciences.
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
March 1988: Elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at a by-election of the 13th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the Budget Deliberation Committee.
Currently, member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee.

Yi Yong-mo:
October 1980: member of the Central Control Committee of the WPK Central Committee.
Currently, member of the Central Control Committee of the WPK Central Committee.

Yi Yong-mu:
June 1964: First vice director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA (lieutenant general).
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fifth WPK Congress).
November 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
August 1973-October 1977: Director of the KPA General Political Bureau.
June 1974-October 1977: Member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1977: Disappeared after being dismissed from the post of the director of the KPA General Political Bureau. Rumored to be purged.
November 1988: Elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at a by-election of the 14th Plenary Session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee. Chairman of the State Inspection Committee under the Administration Council.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Retains the post of the chairman of the State Inspection Committee under the Administration Council.
Currently, chairman of the Transport Committee.

Yi Yong-sop:
Currently, member of the SPA Legislation Committee and procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office.

Yi Ul-sol:
Born in Kapsan, South Hamgyong Province, in 1920 and took a part in the anti-Japanese guerrilla movement. Studied in the Soviet Union Military Academy.
April 1951: Regimental commander of the Third Regiment of the 15th Division.
October 1962: Commander of the Fifth Corps (lieutenant general) and deputy to the Third SPA.

November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fifth WPK Congress)
May 1989: Director of the Security Guard Bureau.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the National Defense Committee.
Currently, member of the WPK Central Military Committee and member of the National Defense Committee.

Yi Won-in *

Yi Cha-bang:
1961: researcher at the Engineering Institute under the Academy of Sciences.
1963: head researcher at Mechanics Studying Division of the Central Machine Engineering Institute under the Academy of Sciences.
May 1970: chairman of the Machine Industry Association and vice minister of first machine industry.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA and chairman of the Science and Technology General Alliance Committee.
May 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Retained his post of the chairman of the State Committee of Science and Technology.
September 1990: Participated in the banquet marking the 41st anniversary of the establishment of the Chinese Government which was held in Pyongyang.
July 1991: Visited China as the head of delegation of the North Korea-China Friendship Association.
Currently, chairman of the State Committee of Science and Technology under the Administration Council.

Yi Chae-yun:
Born on 1923 in North Hamgyong Province. Completed studies at the Party Central Committee School and the Soviet Higher Party School.
May 1956: Elected as vice director of the Organization Department of the WPK Central Committee (the Third WPK Congress).
September 1961: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fourth WPK Congress).
October 1961: Elected as deputy to the Third SPA.
June 1985: Elected as director of the Fourth Economic Department of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1985-January 1986: Elected as chief secretary of the WPK Nampo Municipal and chairman of the Municipal People's Committee.
January 1988: Elected as chief secretary of the WPK Sariwon Municipal and chairman of the Municipal People's Committee.
November 1988: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Labor Administration (the Eighth Cabinet).
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, minister of the Ministry of Labor Administration of the Administration Council.

Yi Chong-ok *

Yi Chi-chan:
Born in North Pyongan Province. Before liberation, he participated in the leftist movement as a member of the anti- Japanese struggle league.
March 1948: Elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee (the Second WPK Congress) and deputy to the First SPA.
May 1952: Elected as director of the electric power bureau of the Ministry of Heavy Industry.
November 1970: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fifth WPK Congress).
June 1977: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Electric Industry.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Retained the post of minister of the Ministry of Electric Industry.
November 1990: Participated in the ceremony for the completion of the Wiwon Power Station.
Currently, chairman of the Electric Industry Committee of the Administration Council.

Yi Chang-son:
Born on 15 November 1925.
1945: Bodyguard of Kim Il-song.
1960: Elected as director of the propaganda bureau of the Ministry of Culture.
July 1961: Elected as vice director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1962: Elected as vice minister of the Ministry of Culture (the Third Cabinet).
March 1970: Elected as first vice minister of the Ministry of Culture (the Fourth Cabinet).
August 1972: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Culture.
December 1972: Elected as deputy to the Fifth SPA.
1973: Participated in the South-North liaison delegates meeting.
December 1977: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Culture and Art of the Administration Council (the Sixth Cabinet).
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Visited China as head of the magazine, NODONGJA, delegation.
Currently, director of the Social and Culture Department of the WPK.

Yi Chol-pong:
Born on 1935. Graduated from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School.
January 1970: Appointed as major general of the People's Army.
July 1974: Elected as director of the Marine Transportation Bureau of the Transportation and Communications Committee.
December 1977: Elected as director of the Land and Marine Transportation Bureau (the Sixth Cabinet).
July 1984: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee in by-election at Ninth WPK Congress.
July 1984-October 1985: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Public Security (lieutenant general).
October 1984: Visited China as head of the Ministry of Public Security delegation.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.

May 1990: Retained post of minister of the Ministry of City Management.
Currently, minister of the Ministry of City Management of the Administration Council.

Yi Chun-ku *

Yi Ha-il:
October 1980: Elected as member of the WPK Central Committee (the Sixth WPK Congress).
February 1982: Elected as deputy to the Seventh SPA.
April 1982: Awarded Kim Il-song prize.
November 1986: Elected as deputy to the Eighth SPA.
January 1987: Elected as director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, member of the Military Commission of the WPK Central Committee; director of the Military Department; and member of the National Defense Committee.

Yi Tae-yon:
October 1986: Elected as responsible secretary of the Chollima steel complex.
Currently, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Committee of Nampo Municipal of the Administration Council.

Yi Hyon-ho:
September 1988: Elected as party responsible secretary of the Musan mining complex.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA.

Yi Ho-hyok:
January 1961: Appointed as chief engineer of the Kaesong textile plant.
November 1963: Elected as vice minister of the Ministry of Light Industry.
December 1967-March 1971: Elected as minister of the Ministry of Foodstuff and Daily Necessities Industry (the Fourth Cabinet).
December 1972: Elected as vice chairman of the Light Industry Committee (the Fifth Cabinet).
October 1984: Elected as second secretary general of the Administration Council.
September 1985: Elected as first vice chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of Pyongyang and management director of Yugyong Hotel.
Currently, minister of the Ministry of Food Administration.

Yim Ki-hwan:
February 1982: Elected as deputy to the Seventh SPA.
January 1985: Awarded with title of labor hero and receives the Order of National Flag First Class. Appointed as management chairman of the Okto cooperative farm in Yogang County, Nampo.
November 1986: Elected as deputy to the Eighth SPA.
April 1990: Elected as deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Elected as member of the Budget Deliberation Committee.
Currently, member of the Budget Deliberation Committee of the SPA.

Yi Nok-che:
November 1964: Vice chairman of the Pyongyang Botanical Garden.
April 1965: Obtained a doctoral degree in botany.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA.
October 1980: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee (the Sixth WPK Congress).
March 1982: Chairman of the Central Botanical Garden. Received the title of People's Scientist and the First-Grade Order of National Flag.
March 1986: President of the Academy of Forestry.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the Budget Deliberation Committee.
Currently, member of the SPA Budget Deliberation Committee.

Yim Sa-chun *

Yim Su-man:
September 1968: Second Secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee.
September 1969: Responsible Secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fifth WPK Congress)
December 1972: Responsible secretary of the Yanggang Provincial Party Committee.
1978: Responsible secretary of the Yanggang Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the Yanggang Provincial People's Committee.
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Sixth WPK Congress)
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA.
April 1982: Received the Kim Il-song Order.
January 1985-June 1985: Chairman of the Nampo Municipal People's Committee.
May 1987: Standing vice chairman of the Nampo Municipal People's Committee.
Currently, responsible secretary of the Kaesong Municipal Party Committee.

Yim Chun-kil:
Born in Cholsan, North Pyongan Province.
February 1980: Section chief of the Administration Council. Participated as a delegate to experts talk for North-South premier-level talks.
May 1985: Vice chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; participated in the inter-Korean Red Cross talks as an adviser.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee.
August 1990: Responsible aide to the premier; accompanied the premier to the first round of North-South high-level talks; during the talks, Yim Chun-sim who

lived in Sonam-ri, Unhyon-myon, Yangchu County, Kyonggi Province, insisted that he was her brother. However, he strongly denied this.
December 1990: Participated in the third round of North-South high-level talks.
Currently, a member of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee.

Yim Hyong-ku:
Born in Kapsan, South Hamgyong Province, in 1923 and graduated from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, Kim Il-song University, and Moscow University.
1955: Chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial Democratic Youth Union.
March 1967: Responsible secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee.
November 1967: Deputy to the Fourth SPA and member of the Examination of Deputies Qualification Committee.
August 1970: Responsible secretary of the Sinuiju Municipal Party Committee.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fifth WPK Congress).
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee (the Sixth WPK Congress) and secretary in charge of munitions.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
Currently, the chairman of the Kangwon Provincial Party Committee.

Chang Song-u *

Chang Song-taek *

Chang Che-chol:
Served as chairman of the Korean Roman Catholics Association.
May 1989: Vice chairman of the Korean Religionists Council.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, a member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chang Chol:
Born in North Hamgyong Province in May 1926 and graduated from Japan's Meiji University.
March 1948: Member of the Central Committee of the North Korean Workers' Party [The former WPK].
August 1948: Deputy to the First SPA.
May 1961-October 1965: Director of the Education Department of the Central Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon].
November 1970: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee (the Fifth WPK Congress)
March 1988: Elected member of the WPK Central Committee at a by-election of the 13th plenary session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
July 1990: Vice Premier and minister of culture and art.
July 1990: Proposed the founding of a North-South joint committee for demolition of concrete wall.
October 1990: Participated in the music concert for pan-national unification held in Seoul.
Currently, vice premier and minister of culture and art under the Administration Council.

Chon Kum-chol:
Born in Musan, North Hamgyong Province in 1924 and graduated from Kim Il-song University.
November 1972: Spokesman for the third round of North-South Red Cross talks.
March 1973-December 1974: Delegate to the administration council of the North-South Coordination Committee.
August 1989: Vice chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and the head of the North Korean delegation to working contact for North-South parliamentary talks.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
July 1990: Chairman for the committee for preparation for pan-national rally and director of the Reunification Affairs Institute, and vice chairman of the Academy of the Social Sciences.
November 1990: In Berlin, formed the Pan-national Alliance for Reunification of the Fatherland.
Currently, a member of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee.

Chon Mun-sop:
1920: Born in North Hamgyong Province.
Graduated from the Central Party School (before the national liberation, he was a member of the Kim Il-song anti-Japanese guerrilla unit).
1950-1956: Commander of the 10th Army Division (major general).
September 1961: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA.
1964: Vice minister of public security and director of Security Guard Bureau.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
March 1980: Commander of Pyongyang Garrison Headquarters (colonel general).
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee and a member of the Central Military Commission.
October 1980-October 1985: Member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Present: Chairman of the State Inspection Commission.

Chon Pyong-ho *

Chong Kwan-yul:
October 1980: Member of the Central Control Committee of the WPK Central Committee.
Present: Member of the Central Control Committee.

Chong Tu-hwan:
April 1956: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee; director of the Commercial and Financial Department of the WPK Central Committee.

August 1957: Deputy to the Second SPA and a member of the Budget Deliberation Committee of the SPA.
October 1958: Director of the Commercial, Financial, and Planning Department of the WPK Central Committee.
1959-1960: Minister of commerce.
September 1961: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
July 1972: Minister of labor.
September 1987: Reconfirmed as the chairman of the National Committee for the Defense of Peace.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Reelected a member of the SPA Standing Committee.
Present: Member of the SPA Standing Committee

Chong Mun-san:
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA and a member of the SPA Law Bill Deliberation Committee.
January 1989: Director of the Secretariat of the Administration Council.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Present: Director of the Secretariat of the Administration Council.

Chong Song-taek:
March 1988: Elected a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election held at the 13th congress of the Sixth Central Committee.
October 1988: Governor of the Central Bank.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Present: Governor of the Central Bank.

Chong Song-nam:
1972: Vice minister of external economic affairs.
August 1974: Minister of external economic affairs.
April 1975: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.
July 1982: Chairman of the Committee for the Unity of the DPRK and Cuba.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
December 1986: Minister of external economic affairs.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Minister of external economic affairs.
Present: Vice chairman of the External Economy Commission.

Chong Chun-ki:
September 1924: Born in Anju, South Pyongan Province.
Graduated from Kim Il-song University
1950: Studied at Moscow University.
February 1963: Editor in chief of the NODONG SINMUN.
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA and a member of the SPA Standing Committee
September 1973: Vice premier of the Administration Council.
November 1974: Elected a candidate member of the Political Committee of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election.
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee and a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.
December 1986: Vice premier of the Administration Council.
1989: Chairman of the Committee to Rescue Pastor Mun Ik-hwan.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Present: Member of the SPA Standing Committee.

Chong Ha-chol:
July 1986: First vice chairman of the Central Broadcasting Committee; visited East Germany as head of a delegation of the Central Broadcasting Committee.
November 1988: Visited Poland as head of a delegation of the Central Broadcasting Committee.
February 1990: Chairman of the Central Broadcasting Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the SPA Standing Committee.
June 1990: Visited the PRC as head of a delegation of the DPRK Broadcasting Committee.
Present: Member of the SPA Standing Committee.

Cho Myong-nok *

Cho Myong-son:
Born in 1916; a member of the anti-Japanese guerrilla unit in Manchuria; a member of the WPK Central Committee; vice minister of public security; and a KPA full general.

Cho Se-ung:
Born in North Pyongan Province in 1927; graduated from Kim Chaek University of Technology; studied in the Soviet Union; a candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; and a deputy to the Ninth SPA.

Cho Chol-chun:
1950: Studied as a researcher at Moscow University.
1954: Director of the Management Bureau of the Ministry of Construction.
May 1973: Vice minister of the Ministry of Construction.
October 1980: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.
May 1981-November 1985: Minister of the Ministry of Construction. Visited China in December 1984 as head of the Construction and Friendship Delegation.
November 1985-August 1988: Vice chairman of the Building-Materials Industry Committee.
June 1988: Minister of the Ministry of Construction.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
November 1990: Participated in the ceremony for the completion of Yesonggang waterway.
Presently, minister of the Ministry of Construction.

Cho Chong-mi *

Chu Song-il:
Born in South Hamgyong Province.
August 1954: Engineer of Yongsong machine plant.
August 1957: Deputy to the Second SPA.
October 1960: Chollima work team leader of Yongsong machine plant; received title of Labor Hero.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eight SPA.
Presently, member of the Standing Committee of the SPA.

Chu Chang-pok:
November 1970: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1980: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and vice chairman of the WPK Central Inspection Committee.
Presently, vice chairman of the WPK Central Inspection Committee.

Chu Chang-chun:
Born in North Hamgyong Province in 1922. Dropped out of the Japanese University. Graduated from the Soviet Higher Party School.
December 1957: Vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA.
January 1975: North Korea's delegate to working-level meeting for North-South Red Cross talks.
July 1984: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
July 1985: Vice head of North Korea's delegation to the preparatory contact for North-South parliamentary meeting.
September 1988: DPRK Ambassador to China.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
December 1990: Denounced President No Tae-u s visit to the USSR during his news conference in China.

Chi Chang-ik:
Born in North Hamgyong Province.
Studied in China.
October 1954: Director of the Instruction Section of the WPK Central Party School.
January 1981: President of Kim Il-song University.
February 1982: Deputy of the Seventh SPA; member of the Standing Committee of the SPA.
December 1986: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Member of the CPC and general secretary of the CPC.
Presently, general secretary of the CPC.

Chae Hui-chong:
Born in South Hamgyong Province.
Graduated from the Kim Il-song University and Moscow University.
1958: Member of Academy of Social Sciences under Academy of Sciences.
May 1960: Director of the Instruction Section of the University of National Economy.
September 1961: Member of the WPK Central Committee and deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA.
September 1982: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
November 1988: Minister of the Ministry of Joint-Venture Industry (newly established).
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Presently, vice chairman of the Budget Committee of the SPA.

Choe Kwang:
Born in North Hamgyong Province in 1918.
Member of the Kim Il-song Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army.
February 1948: First Division Commander.
August 1948: Deputy to the First SPA.
October 1952: Superintendent of the Kanggon Military Academy.
June 1958: Commander of the Air Force (promoted to colonel general June 1960)
June 1961: Member of the WPK Central Committee.
September 1962: Minister of the Ministry of National Defense
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee and candidate member of the WPK Political Bureau.
February 1988: Chief of General Staff.
1988: Member of the WPK Central Military Commission.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Vice chairman of the National Defense Commission and member of the WPK Political Bureau.
April 1992: Vice marshal (promoted to vice marshal during the ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Army). Received a title of the Double Hero of the Republic.
Presently, a member of the WPK Political Bureau and vice chairman of the National Defense Commission.

Choe Ki-yong:
September 1986: Vice president of Kim Chaek University of Technology.
September 1987: First vice minister of the Ministry of Higher Education.
July 1989: Chairman of the Education Committee, minister of the Ministry of Higher Education, and chairman of North Korean-Ethiopian Friendship Association.
January 1990: Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Presently, chairman of the Education Committee of the Administration Council.

Choe Mun-son:
Born in Unyul, South Hwanghae Province, in 1926; graduated from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kim Il-song University; and studied at Moscow University
1958: Instructor at the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department

June 1976-March 1989: Responsible secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee
October 1980: a member of the WPK Central Committee; established the Office for the Study of Party History where he embellished Kim Il-song's personal history
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA
April 1989: Responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA
May 1990: Member of the CPC
October 1990: Delivered a speech at a dinner welcoming a South Korean delegation during the Second South-North high-level talks held in Pyongyang
Present: Chairman of the WPK's North Hwanghae Provincial Committee

Choe Pok-yon:
September 1982: Chairman of the Kangwon Provincial People's Committee
June 1985: Chairman of the Kangwon Provincial Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA
December 1986: Elected member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election held at the 12th congress of the Sixth WPK Central Committee; chairman of the Fishery Commission
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA
May 1990: Chairman of the Fishery Commission
December 1990: Asked then ROK Minister of Home Affairs An Ung-mo to cooperate so that a drifting North Korea fishing vessel could return to North Korea
Present: Chairman of the Fishery Commission of the Administration Council

Choe Su-kil:
1934: Born
January 1989: Worked out, with then visiting Hyundai Group Honorary Chairman Chong Chu-yong, an agreement (a protocol) on jointly developing Mt. Kumgang
1990: Director of a department of the WPK Central Committee (it seems that he, as a protege of Kim Chong-il and Kim Yong-sun, took the leadership in promoting relations between Japan and North Korea)
December 1990: Visited Japan (it has been rumored that he held a secret meeting with Yi Sok-chae, then a secretary for economic affairs at Chongwadae [presidential offices], there)
Present: President of the Daesong Bank and an adviser to the DPRK-Asia Trade Promotion Committee

Choe Su-san:
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA
May 1990: Member of the SPA Law Bill Deliberation Committee
Present: Member of the SPA Legislation Committee

Choe Su-hon:
February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA
March 1982: Roving ambassador at the Foreign Ministry; visited Botswana, leading a Foreign Ministry delegation
April 1982: Visited Nigeria, leading a SPA delegation
July 1986: Vice foreign minister
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA
May 1990: Member of the SPA Law Bill Deliberation Committee
June-July 1991: Visited nonaligned nations in Africa, such as Burkina Faso, Benin, Burundi, and Uganda, leading a Foreign Ministry delegation
Present: Member of the SPA Legislation Committee

Choe Yong-nim *

Choe Yong-hae *

Choe Won-ik:
October 1960: Vice minister of national defense
December 1960-March 1963: Minister of fishery
September 1961: Member of the WPK Central Committee
October 1962: Deputy to the Third SPA
March 1963: Awarded the title of hero, the Order of National Flag First Class
February 1964-December 1972: Vice premier
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee
December 1976: Minister of public security
December 1977: Deputy to the Sixth SPA
October 1987: Standing vice chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee
Present: President of the Central Court

Choe Un-a *

Choe In-tok:
November 1967: Deputy to the Fourth SPA
1970: KPA lieutenant general; awarded the title of Republic hero; and a member of the WPK Central Committee
December 1972: Deputy to the Fifth SPA
1978: KPA colonel general; commander of the Hamhung District Army Corps
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Committee
April 1982: President of Kim Il-song Military University
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA
July 1987: KPA full general
1989: Responsible secretary of the Songyo District Party Committee in Pyongyang and chairman of this district's People's Committee
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA
Present: Vice marshal and a member of the WPK Central Committee

Choe Tae-pok *

Choe Hak-kun:
December 1979: Chairman of the State Atomic Energy Commission; led a delegation to India

February 1982: Deputy to the Seventh SPA
December 1986: Elected a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in a by-election held at the 12th congress of the Sixth WPK Central Committee; minister of the atomic energy industry
January 1990: Visited Cuba, leading a delegation of the Ministry of Atomic Energy Industry
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA
May 1990; Minister of atomic energy industry
Present: Minister of atomic energy industry of the Administration Council

Choe Hyon-tok:
Chairman of the Korean Students Committee and vice chairman of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea.
April 1990: Elected deputy to the Ninth SPA.
August 1990: Publishes statement to welcome the delegation of Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils to North Korea.
January 1991: Vice chairman of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance of the Country's Reunification.
February 1991: Visited Japan accompanying Kim Yong-sun as member of the WPK delegation.
Currently, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the SPA.

Tae Pyong-yol
1913: Born in Musan, North Hamgyong Province. Joined Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrilla activities. Member of the WPK Central Committee; member of the Military Commission; director of a department in the party Central Committee; deputy to the Ninth SPA, and general of the People's Army.

Han Tok-su
1907: Born in Kyongsan [in North Kyongsang Province, South Korea]. Dropped out of the junior college of Nippon University. Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon]; deputy to the Ninth SPA; elected Chongnyon chairman eight times.

Han Sok-kwan
October 1980: Member of the WPK Central Control Committee (Sixth party Congress).
Currently, member of the WPK Control Committee.

Han Song-yong *

Han Si-hae
Born in 1934; April 1973: Director general of a bureau in the Foreign Ministry of the Administration Council.
October 1975: Deputy ambassador at the UN permanent mission.
March 1976: Vice foreign minister (the fifth cabinet); visited Senegal, Guinea, and Benin as Kim Il-song's special envoy.
April 1977: Visited Gabon as head of a Foreign Ministry delegation.
November 1977 to March 1985: Ambassador at the UN observers' mission.
December 1985: Deputy director of the Department of International Affairs, WPK Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
January 1991: Vice chairman of the North Korean headquarters of the National Alliance of the Country's Reunification.
1991: Vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the SPA.
Currently, member of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee.

Han Yong-nam
May 1986: Vice chairman of Kangwon Province Administrative Guidance Committee.
November 1989: Chairman of the Kangwon Province Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
Currently, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Committee [as published] of the Administration Council.

Han Yong-su
July 1974: Vice minister of public health (fifth cabinet), vice chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee.
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA
May 1990: Vice chairman of the committee for reviewing reunification policy.
Currently, vice chairman of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee.

Han Chang-kun
July 1978: Director in the Commission of Public Welfare in the Administration Council.
December 1983: Director of the Commercial Department of the Commission of Public Welfare.
November 1986: Deputy to the Eighth SPA.
December 1986: Re-appointed to director of the SPA Commercial Department. (separated from the Commission of Public Welfare)
June 1989: Member of the WPK Central Auditing Commission (16th meeting of Sixth Central Committee).
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
May 1990: Remains director of the Commercial Department.
Currently, Minister of commerce in the Administration Council.

Ho Chong *

Hyon Chun-kuk *

Hyon Chol-kyu
November 1970: Member of the WPK Central Committee (Fifth Congress)
1972: Director of a department in the WPK Central Committee.
November 1977 to February 1982: Deputy to the Sixth SPA.

December 1985 to January 1987: Responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial People's Committee.
December 1986: Member of the WPK Central Committee (12th Meeting of the Sixth Central Committee).
April 1990: Deputy to the Ninth SPA.
November 1990: Responsible secretary of the WPK South Hamgyong Provincial party and chairman of the provincial People's Committee. (re-appointed)
Currently, chairman of the WPK South Hamgyong Provincial Committee.

Hong Sok-hyong *

Hong Song-nam *

Hong Si-hak
1922: Born in North Hamgyong Province; graduated from the central party school and Soviet high-level party school; member of the WPK Central Committee, deputy to the Ninth SPA.

Hwang Chang-yop *

Hwang Tae-yon *

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